

AS OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022, FACE-MASKS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO BE WORN IN SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK.

IT'S NORMAL TO FEEL ANXIOUS ABOUT CHANGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, ASK YOUR TEACHER OR ANOTHER TRUSTED ADULT.

GUIDANCE CHANGED BECAUSE CASES ARE GOING DOWN. THIS DECISION WAS BASED ON GOOD AND RELIABLE SCIENCE.



I CHOOSE TO STILL WEAR A MASK!



THANKS FOR TELLING ME!



REGARDLESS OF WHETHER MASKING IS REQUIRED YOU MAY STILL CHOOSE TO WEAR A MASK.

BE RESPECTFUL AND KIND TO YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND TEACHERS WHETHER THEY CHOOSE TO WEAR A FACE-MASK OR NOT.

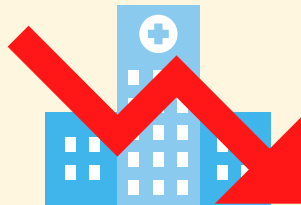


AS OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022, FACE-MASKS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO BE WORN IN SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK STATE.

CHANGE CAN BE HARD AND STRESSFUL, ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS. BELOW ARE SOME ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS MAY ASK.




WHY DID THE GUIDANCE CHANGE?

AS THE SCIENCE AROUND COVID-19 EVOLVES, SO DO RECOMMENDATIONS. DECISIONS ARE BASED ON THE BEST, MOST RECENT SCIENCE. THE CDC'S NEW COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL FRAMEWORK TAKES INTO ACCOUNT DIFFERENT COMMUNITY INDICATORS OF COVID-19.



WHEN SHOULD I WEAR A MASK?

INDIVIDUALS RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER COMPLETING 5 DAYS OF ISOLATION ARE REQUIRED TO MASK IN SCHOOL ON DAYS 6-10. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EXPOSED OR POTENTIALLY EXPOSED SHOULD WEAR A MASK FOR 10 DAYS IN SCHOOL. IN ADDITION:

-  THE CDC NOW RECOMMENDS PEOPLE WEAR FACE-MASKS WHEN IN AN AREA WITH A HIGH COMMUNITY COVID-19 LEVEL.
-  IN AREAS WITH A MEDIUM COMMUNITY COVID-19 LEVEL, THOSE WHO ARE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED OR AT RISK FOR SEVERE DISEASE SHOULD TALK TO THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT MASKING.
-  IN AREAS WITH A LOW COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL, PEOPLE MAY WEAR A MASK BASED ON THEIR PERSONAL PREFERENCE.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY COUNTY'S COMMUNITY COVID-19 LEVEL IS?

THE CDC COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVELS WEBPAGE HAS DATA AVAILABLE FOR ALL NYS COUNTIES.



CAN I STILL WEAR A MASK?

YES! EVERYONE MAY CHOOSE TO STILL WEAR A MASK. PEOPLE MAY CHOOSE TO CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK DUE TO BEING IMMUNOCOMPROMISED AND AT HIGHER RISK OF SEVERE COVID-19, BEING UNABLE TO BE VACCINATED, OR CARING FOR SOMEONE ELSE WHO IS HIGH RISK.

PEOPLE MAY WEAR MASKS BECAUSE THEY NEED TO, OR BECAUSE THEY CHOOSE TO. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE RESPECTFUL TO EVERYONE AND TO DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PROTECT ONE ANOTHER FROM COVID-19.