



**Whitman-Hanson
Regional School District**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



610 Franklin Street
Whitman, MA 02382
Phone 781-618-7000
Fax 781-618-7099
TTY 781-618-7402
Web: www.whrsd.org

To: All Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Families and Staff
From: Superintendent Jeffrey Szymaniak
Date: February 27, 2022
Subject: **Important update from the Superintendent on the DESE school mask mandate**

REMINDER: School Mask Mandate to be Lifted on February 28

Effective Monday, February 28th, the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide.

Students and staff in the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District will no longer need to wear masks when returning to school from February break.

Masks will still be required in all school clinics.

As always, any individual who wishes to continue to mask should be supported in that choice.

DESE will be lifting indoor mask requirements for K-12 and child care settings on February 28, 2022. On February 9, 2022, Jeffrey C. Riley, DESE Commissioner, announced that, after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, he will not renew the state mask requirement after it expires on February 28, 2022.

In addition, late Friday, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced that, effective February 25, 2022, it is no longer requiring that masks be worn on school buses or vans for K-12 students and children in childcare programs.

More information on the updated CDC guidance is available here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>.

DESE and DPH strongly recommend students and staff continue to follow the [DESE-DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios](#).

As always, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, should be supported in that choice. DESE and DPH strongly recommend unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks in school settings. The Commissioner will continue to monitor public health data, consult with medical experts and state health officials, and issue further guidance and/or requirements as needed.

Thank you.
Jeff
Jeffrey Szymaniak
Superintendent of Schools