

July 9, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On Wednesday, July 7, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) notified school districts that they may change their mask policies for summer school programming. Schools can now implement revised masking policies based on the previously released NYSDOH guidelines for daycare and summer camp programs.

In its communication to school districts, NYSDOH based this determination on the "current low rates of COVID-19 transmission." Currently the Erie County Department of Health is reporting regional rates which are consistent with levels recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be a "low transmission" level. It is also important to note that Governor Andrew Cuomo has formally lifted the COVID-19 state of emergency since June 25, 2021, while also lifting most pandemic-related restrictions at that time.

Consistent with NYSDOH guidance, and in consultation with Officials from our Component School Districts, the following mitigation strategies will be in place for our summer programs effective Monday, July 12, 2021:

- Mask wearing is strongly encouraged, but not required for students.
- Unvaccinated staff must continue to wear masks indoors.
- We will continue to maximize physical distancing between students based on the number of children in each class and the size of the instructional space and needs of the students.
- The daily health screening questionnaire will continue, as well as daily temperature checks upon entry to the building.
- Families should keep children at home if they are not feeling well or are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptom(s).
- Thorough cleaning of all instructional spaces will continue to be completed throughout the day.

Please be advised that transportation for our summer program is provided by your home school district who sets the policies and requirements for masking during transportation to and from the summer program on their school buses. Feel free to contact your district transportation department for specific masking policies on school buses.

It is important to note that these changes are only in place for summer programs, and these policies are subject to change if the State again changes its requirements for schools.

As always, thank you for your understanding and partnership as we strive to provide a safe and productive summer program for your child.

Sincerely,

Patrick Canfield

Patrick Canfield
Director of Exceptional Education