



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

June 6, 2021

Dear Akron Students, Parents, Staff, and Families:

The purpose of this correspondence is to update you on information related to a potential change in NYSDOH guidance for mask wearing on school grounds. On Friday, State Health Commissioner Howard Zucker released a letter he sent to the CDC regarding a potential change to the use of masks in school. In the letter, Dr. Zucker indicated that the state is considering end-of-the-school-year mask guidance that would parallel previously released guidance for summer camps. In both settings, the minimum state-wide mask guidance includes:

- Indoors, mask use will be strongly encouraged but not required for students, campers, and staff/teachers/counselors who are not fully vaccinated.
- Outdoors, masks are not required; students, campers, and staff/teachers/counselors who are not fully vaccinated are “encouraged” to wear a mask in certain higher-risk circumstances.
- Both indoors and outdoors, students, campers, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks.
- Schools and camps may choose to implement stricter standards.

Dr. Zucker asked for input from the CDC and indicated that pending any data or science that contradicts moving forward, the NYSDOH plans to make the new mask guidance official on Monday, June 7.

As you know, the Akron Central School District has consistently followed the health and safety regulations released by the NYSDOH over the course of the pandemic. We respectfully ask that students and staff continue to follow our current practice of wearing masks as we await the official NYSDOH statement changing the mask guidance. We will carefully consider and effectively plan for any change in guidance that we receive. The impact the potential new mask guidance will have on contact tracing and quarantine is not yet known. We will send another correspondence once the anticipated mask guidance is released and reviewed by the District.

We are aware of expected high temperatures next week. Fortunately, our campus is fully air conditioned and we utilize effective filtration systems that bring ample fresh air into the system. In addition, our staff will accommodate students with needed mask breaks and continue to care for them as they have throughout the school year.

We thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our schools safe and secure. Please continue to check our website for updates on this most recent development.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools