

Kelly M. Lyman
Superintendent

March 11, 2022

Dear Mansfield Families,

As shared with you earlier, the Mansfield Board of Education voted on February 24 to extend the mask mandate in our schools until March 14. At last night's Board meeting they reaffirmed their decision. **Therefore, beginning Monday, March 14, the wearing of masks in Mansfield Public Schools and on our buses is optional.**

This decision was made after a careful review of local data using guidance from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control. Allowing individuals to make their own decision regarding masks is the next step in our transition to move from a reactionary approach to an approach focused on prevention of this respiratory disease.

We recognize that this is a personal decision to be made by each family. We expect that some students and staff will choose to not wear a mask while others will choose to continue to wear a mask. We work hard to make our schools welcoming places. Staff are prepared to support individual decisions and ensure that all members of our community treat each other with respect. Please don't hesitate to reach out if this is not your child's experience.

Continuing to provide a safe and healthy environment requires that we continue to employ layers of mitigation strategies. To that end, the following will continue in our schools:

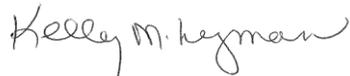
- Physical distancing of three feet where possible
- Frequent hand sanitizing
- Ventilation strategies to support air flow
- Follow quarantine and isolation guidance for those who are identified as a close contact outside of school or for those who have contracted COVID-19 (please note, this includes strongly recommending that masks are worn up to ten days after the exposure or positive test)
- Maintain a close working relationship with local public health officials and monitor weekly data
- Be prepared to employ more restrictive strategies should they be required

During this pandemic we have learned the importance of all working together and I have often stated that we would not have been successful in keeping our schools open if we did not have the cooperation and support of our families. We ask that this support continue. **Please use the test kits provided to you on the first day your child comes to school without a mask and any day thereafter when your child is experiencing any COVID-like symptoms.** We have a supply of test kits remaining so let us know if you need another sent home. Testing is an important strategy for us all at this stage of the pandemic.

Finally, I am pleased to share that we had only three cases of COVID-19 among our school community this week.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly M. Lyman".

Kelly M. Lyman