



February 26, 2022

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Commissioner Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza,  
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Governor Hochul and Commissioner Bassett,

As you are aware, on Friday, February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidelines for masking, and in particular, updated guidelines for [masking](#) in schools.

As you may recall our group recently wrote a letter entitled "[Pathway to Normalcy](#)" in which we asked for information and metrics to allow our students and staff a roadmap to move away from the current masking requirements. Since that time, through the efforts of your departments and the dedication and hard work from our communities, the COVID community levels have continued to decrease and we are continuing to transition to a more "normal" environment. This is especially true with the announcement of the updated CDC guidelines.

We write you today with a sense of urgency asking you to implement the following measures, before students return from the February recess period on Monday, February 28:

- In compliance with the new CDC recommendations, **remove the mandate for masking for school facilities and on [school busses](#)** in counties identified by the CDC at [low or medium](#) levels of risk,
- Provide guidance to school districts, parents, and staff about the factors that would trigger the reintroduction of masks, and
- Provide guidance to school districts on changes to other mitigation layers including social distancing and/or quarantine rules.

Thank you for your timely consideration of our requests which will allow us to effectively communicate with the families we serve. Please know that we are appreciative of your continued support and understanding of the many challenges faced by school districts during this time.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cook  
Superintendent  
Hartford Central School District  
Chairperson, WSWHE BOCES CSO Advocacy Committee

On behalf of the 31 Superintendents of Schools in the WSWHE BOCES region:

**Superintendents of Schools in the WSWHE BOCES region**

Michael Healey, Argyle CSD	Michael Markwica, Johnsbury CSD
Kenneth Slentz, Ballston Spa CSD	Douglas Huntley, Interim, Lake George CSD
Michael Graney, Bolton CSD	Bruce Potter, Mechanicville City SD
Dr. Douglas Silvernell, Cambridge CSD	Kyle McFarland, Minerva CSD
Dr. Mark Stratton, Corinth CSD	Christian Fisher, Newcomb CSD
Justin Hoskins, Fort Ann CSD	Michele French, North Warren CSD
Mark Bessen, Interim, Fort Edward UFSD	Kyle Gannon, Queensbury UFSD
Dr. Brita Donovan, Galway CSD	Mark Doody, Interim, Salem CSD
Paul Jenkins, Glens Falls City SD	Dr. Michael Patton, Saratoga Springs City SD
Brian George, Glens Falls Common	Dr. Ryan Sherman, Schuylerville CSD
Thomas McGurl, Granville CSD	Kristine Orr, South Glens Falls CSD
Mark Fish, Greenwich CSD	Patricia Morris, Stillwater CSD
Beecher Baker, Hadley Luzerne CSD	Amy Langworthy, Warrensburg CSD
Andrew Cook, Hartford CSD	Patrick Pomerville, Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD
Daniel Ward, Hudson Falls CSD	Patrick Dee, Whitehall CSD
David Snide, Indian Lake CSD	

cc: James P. Dexter, District Superintendent, WSWHE Supervisory District  
Dr. Betty A. Rosa, New York State Commissioner of Education  
Tina McDougall, Washington County Public Health Services  
Cathy Medick, Saratoga County Public Health Services  
Daniel Kuhles, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner Saratoga County Public Health Services  
Ginelle Jones, Warren County Public Health  
Erica Mahoney, Hamilton County Public Health  
Linda Beers, Essex County Health Department

**Members of the New York State Assembly**

Jake Ashby	Robert Smullen
Michael Benedetto	John McDonald
Carrie Woerner	Mary Beth Walh
Matthew Simpson	

**Members New York State Senate**

Daphne Jordan  
Shelly Mayer  
Dan Stec  
James Tedisco