



# SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Patrik D. Williams, Superintendent

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February 28, 2022

Dear Smyrna School District Families:

By now, you may be aware of Governor Carney's announcement today regarding the expiration of the Delaware State of Emergency and the accompanying school mask requirement. Specifically, the announcement reads, in part:

*Governor John Carney on Monday announced that he will sign an order terminating the COVID-19 State of Emergency and the masking requirement in public and private K-12 schools and child care facilities effective at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1. The announcement is consistent with new masking [guidance](#) issued on Friday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*

***Masking will not be required by the State of Delaware in K-12 schools, on school buses, or in child care facilities after 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.***

*The Delaware Department of Education (DOE) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) have issued [updated guidance](#) to district and school leaders to aid response efforts following the expiration of the mask requirement.*

Consequently, staff, students and visitors are no longer required to wear face masks on Smyrna School District buses or in schools, beginning ***tomorrow evening, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.***

Those who wish to continue wearing face masks are invited to do so, of course. Our local board of education had previously anticipated this development at its most recent February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and approved the following position:

*The CDC and DPH recommend the continued wearing of face coverings when students are present inside schools and offices once the Governor-declared face covering mandate expires. Therefore, all staff and students who are not protected with the full dosage of the COVID vaccine and boosters are strongly encouraged to continue to wear face coverings to mitigate their risk of contracting the virus and facing extended quarantining as mandated by the State of Delaware.*

All families are, once again, able to make their own personal choices about face coverings, barring any future state mandates to the contrary, and we all look forward to seeing our students' faces, ***beginning this Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>!***

Sincerely,

Patrik Williams  
Superintendent

The Smyrna School District does not discriminate in employment, educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, marital status, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any other protected category or status in accordance with state and federal laws. Inquiries should be directed to the District Superintendent.