



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(631) 382-2006

March 3, 2022

Dear Smithtown School Community,

As you know, the state's mask mandate ended yesterday. As promised, the state released updated guidance that provides additional information regarding the operation of our schools. The guidance is linked [HERE](#) and the state has also provided an FAQ document linked [HERE](#).

I have summarized several important items below:

- Masks will be optional within schools and on school buses, but will be required of students and staff upon return from isolation during days 6 through 10 after COVID-19 infection. Please note that a return to school on days 6 through 10 is dependent upon no fever for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication and symptoms improving.
- We will continue to utilize live-streaming and/or remote learning for those students who must isolate at home due to being COVID positive.
- The District will continue to update the community of positive cases on the website via this [LINK](#). We will also notify the parents of students who share a class with a student or staff member who tested positive. This notice will include a recommendation that their child be tested and wear a mask for 10 days after a known exposure. A supply of home tests are available at each building should a parent request them.
- Social Distancing is now at the discretion of local health departments and districts. Given that the Suffolk County Department of Health will not require social distancing, neither will the District.
- Symptomatic students and staff continue to be recommended to stay home and be tested prior to returning to school.
- We will no longer be requiring the completion of a health screening questionnaire prior to visitors entering our district facilities.

Our first priority will continue to be the health and safety of our students and staff. As a result, we will continue to utilize mitigation strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. This includes regular handwashing, ventilation, enhanced cleaning protocols throughout the district, the use of hand sanitizers as needed and offering COVID-19 home test kits to our families, staff and faculty.

These changes signal a recognition of the much improved safety situation as well as the importance of preserving in-person instruction for our students. We are confident that we can continue to provide a safe school environment and begin to return to the normal operation of our schools.

Like most districts, there have been sharp divisions as to how to manage this pandemic, but I truly hope we capitalize on this healing opportunity and begin to focus on what unites us... the care we have for our children and the people who serve them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Secaur".

Mark Secaur, Ed. D.  
Superintendent