



CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Kevin D. Case
Superintendent of Schools

February 17, 2022

Dear Canton Public Schools Community,

Local school districts and municipalities have now received assurance that the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the State Department of Education (SDE) are aligned with the Governor in allowing the mask mandate for schools to expire. We have seen a dramatic decrease in COVID positive cases in Connecticut, the Farmington Valley and in the Canton Community. Many of our age – eligible students are fully vaccinated or have initiated the process. Our district also has a supply of home test kits available. Families can request a self-test kit from any of our school nurses.

Based upon this and other information we are receiving from the DPH and the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD), Canton Public Schools will implement a mask – optional approach for all students and staff beginning on Monday, February 28, 2022.

Following the Guidance of DPH and FVHD, we will continue to implement the mitigation strategies that have been in place since the beginning of the school year. We will contact trace in order to inform families and staff who are close contacts so that they can make their own decisions about testing after an exposure. We encourage those who need or choose to wear masks to do so. We urge all of our community members to continue to be respectful of others who have a different opinion on this matter and of those who will need or choose to continue to wear masks. Let's continue to be supportive of one another. This support is what makes our Canton Community a great place to live and learn.

Please know that the rules for wearing masks on school transportation are still in effect, per federal regulations. We will keep you informed about any changes to this exception. The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23rd at the Canton Community Center. Please know the Board does not need to vote to take formal action to implement the mask – optional approach. The Board of Education and I are very appreciative of the feedback received by stakeholders over the last few weeks.

We will continue to collaborate with state and local health officials to guide our protocols should changes be necessary. As we monitor this important change and move toward normalcy with the school setting, the health and safety of our students and staff will remain our number one priority. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Case".

Kevin D. Case
Superintendent of Schools