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July 9, 2021

Dear Little Flower Parents, Guardians, and Community:

On the afternoon of July 7, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) issued an email to all school districts and BOCES, announcing that due to the low rates of transmission of the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”), school districts may decide to implement revised masking policies for summer school programs this summer that are consistent with the archived [Interim Guidance for Child Care, Day Camp and Overnight Camp Programs during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#).

This change in NYSDOH guidance permits the District to strongly recommend, but not to require that masks be worn by unvaccinated students while in summer school. Please note, however, that masks must still be worn by unvaccinated students during transportation associated with summer school programs.

In light of this guidance and the low COVID-19 positivity rate in the region, the District is modifying its COVID-19 related protocols to strongly encourage, but not to require that unvaccinated students wear masks while at summer school programs. This will be effective Monday, July 12, 2021.

Please note that unvaccinated faculty and staff will still be required to wear masks while indoors (except when eating, drinking, or taking a mask break).

While engaged in outdoor activities, masks will not be required for vaccinated or unvaccinated students, faculty and staff.

The District will continue to honor the rights of individuals who choose to wear masks in both the indoor and outdoor settings despite this change in state guidance for the summer.

Please note that layered mitigation strategies will continue to be implemented to mitigate against the resurgence of COVID-19 outbreaks. The District will continue to encourage and reinforce proper hand hygiene, and other mitigation measures. The guidance has not changed the District’s responsibility to conduct health screening for students attending summer school.

Please note that this new state guidance is applicable only to summer school programs and subject to change. We await updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the NYSDOH for the 2021-22 school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harold J. Dean
Superintendent of Schools