



WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Patricia A. Follette
Woodard Superintendent of Schools
School Business Executive

Jo-Ann Sexton

Zachary M.
Assistant Superintendent

June 6, 2021

Dear Whitney Point Families,

On Friday, I wrote to you and provided a letter sent as a Press Release at 1:57 pm from the NYS Health Department to the CDC about proposed mask-wearing changes in NYS Schools. The link to that letter is [https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/Letter from NYSDOH.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/Letter_from_NYSDOH.pdf). As I noted, the letter concluded with a request from NYS Health Department to the CDC for feedback about the proposed changes by Monday, June 7th.

There has been a lot of media coverage about the proposed mask-wearing changes. At 1:42 pm today, all NYS Superintendents received the followed email from the NYS Department of Education:

Dear Colleagues,

As of September 1, 2020, school districts were permitted to reopen, under Executive Order 202.60, "subject to adherence to Department of Health issued guidance and directives." These have included the submission of reopening plans to address, among other things, distancing and health requirements.

*SED has been in communication with Executive staff regarding the attached letter from Dr. Howard Zucker, New York State Commissioner of Health. According to conversations with Executive staff, the intent of this letter was to obtain a response from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding differing standards for summer camps and schools; it has not changed any existing arrangements. **Therefore, schools should continue to operate under their existing procedures until further notice. No changes have been, or will be, made by the Executive until after Monday June 7 to afford the CDC an opportunity to respond to the letter.***

Based on this recent NYS SED directive to school districts, no changes in mask-wearing protocols will be made until further notice. We have received communication from parents and community members about the proposed changes. As always, we will keep these in mind as we move forward.

I will continue to keep you updated with any additional information I receive.

Sincerely,
Dr. Patricia A. Follette
Superintendent

District Vision

To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to high performance, morale and involvement.