



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

*Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools*

June 7, 2021

Dear Akron Students, Parents, Staff, and Families:

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's decision on mask requirements for school districts.

Over the weekend, school districts were notified that State officials would make a decision on mask wearing on Monday, June 7th. It has now been reported that in response to the NYSDOH Commissioner inquiry on masks wearing, Federal health officials from the CDC recommend that New York State should maintain its mask mandate for schools in part due to continued COVID-19 infection risks for unvaccinated children.

During his press conference today, Governor Cuomo clarified the State's requirements by stating, "New York State allows schools to choose no masks for children when outside." He also explained that when indoors, existing mask requirements are to stay in place. The link to his press release can be found [here](#).

In response to this new information and the anticipated update to the NYSDOH Guidance, the Akron Central School District will:

- Continue to abide by existing mask requirements for all students and staff while indoors
- Outdoors, masks are not required; students and staff who are not fully vaccinated are "encouraged" to wear a mask in certain higher-risk circumstances.

Elementary School parents should communicate in writing with their child's teacher if they would prefer them to wear a mask while outside. Middle School students should send a note to the office so that the staff can be notified, as well.

The timing and manner in which the information related to this issue has been communicated to the public has been both challenging and confusing for parents, students, staff and school leaders. Again, I thank you for your patience as we try to keep you informed and our children safe.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools