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February 24, 2022

Dear Whitefish Bay District Families,

The School Board decided at the February 23rd meeting to transition to optional, but recommended mask wearing in our schools under certain conditions, beginning Monday, February 28, 2022. Our School Board carefully reviewed this matter and made their decision based upon local data, as well as input from a range of school community stakeholders. All other mitigation strategies outlined in the [In-Person Learning Plan](#) will remain in place.

Whitefish Bay School District will begin transitioning to optional, but recommended mask-wearing for all students, staff, and visitors (with the exception of 4K students) beginning February 28, 2022. Regardless of age, students in 4K will continue wearing masks due to lack of access to vaccines. This requirement may be reconsidered by the School Board in the future. The points below outline our practices moving forward.

**Important Operational Information - The following steps are being taken to honor personal decisions regarding masking.**

- A. The District will continue to closely monitor the rates of COVID-19 transmission in our schools and adapt guidance accordingly. Please see *attached* document for additional information about when masks will be required.
- B. Students and staff may continue to wear masks if they choose. Any bullying or harassment based on one's decision on whether or not to wear a mask will not be tolerated at any level in accordance with [Policy 411.1 Student Bullying, Harassment and/or Hazing](#).
- C. Staff will not be reminding or enforcing mask-wearing for any student or visitor to the school beginning February 28, 2022, as long as mask-wearing is optional in our schools.
- D. The personal decisions of mask-wearing of students and families will be respected and honored and will not be shared with others as this is a personal family/student choice.
- E. Students will not be treated differently in any manner due to their personal mask-wearing decision.
- F. If families desire a reasonable accommodation, please contact your school administrator so the request can be reviewed.
- G. We recognize that not all will feel comfortable with this shift. If your student needs additional support regarding this transition from a social emotional perspective, please reach out to your school administrator or school-based pupil services staff.
- H. Our District dashboard will be reformatted in the near future to track the metrics that are influencing factors on mask-wearing.

**COVID-19 Mask, Quarantine, Isolation Guidelines** - Please see the attached document that outlines the metrics being used to guide future decisions around mask wearing.




**Ventilation** - Ventilation remains a key mitigation strategy for the District. Staff will use their judgment when making decisions around the opening and closing of windows in their classrooms and common spaces. Guidelines are in place at the elementary level and our teachers have the discretion and option to open windows for brief moments on cold days.

**Information about Changes in Mask-Wearing Requirements** - Each Friday, our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) will be updated to indicate if mask-wearing will be required for the upcoming week, beginning on the following Monday. Families and staff will receive an email communication on Fridays if there is a change in mask-wearing practices for the coming weeks. If you do not receive an email on a Friday, assume that the mask-wearing requirements for the current week will continue into the following week.

**Planning Ahead** - For example, as of today, Thursday, February 24, the North Shore Burden Rate is 199 and School Positivity Rates are below 3%, resulting in masks being optional but recommended for all (with the exception of 4K). However, these decisions will be made on Fridays. A communication will be sent to staff and families on Friday, February 25th, officially communicating the masking requirements for the upcoming weeks.

For additional information related to COVID-19, please visit our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

If you have specific COVID-19 questions related to your student, please contact the WFB School District COVID-19 Hotline at [covid@wfbschools.com](mailto:covid@wfbschools.com) or 414-963-3863.

<b>Criteria One (DISTRICT)</b> North Shore Burden Rate	$< 350$		$\geq 350$
<b>Criteria Two (SCHOOLS)</b> % of Positive Cases in a School	$< 1.0\%$	$1.0 \leq \% \text{ Positive} < 3.0$	$\geq 3.0\%$
	Masks are <b>optional, but recommended</b> to be worn by all adults and students, with the exception of required masks for 4K students.		Masks are <b>required</b> to be worn by all.
	Optional quarantine for all close contacts if asymptomatic.  The District will follow CDC protocols for positive cases within home. Unvaccinated close contacts within the same household to a positive individual must quarantine.		
	Individuals who are symptomatic or have a positive COVID-19 test will isolate, per District protocols in the <a href="#">In-Person Learning Plan</a> . Positive COVID-19 test results include a positive PCR test, antigen test, or home test (a 3rd party test required for staff).		

North Shore Community Burden Rate and School Positivity Rates will be tracked M, W, and F as long as this data remains available.

- **Criteria One (DISTRICT)** - If the North Shore Burden Rate is greater than or equal to 350 on a Friday, then masks will be **required by all** in the District beginning the following Monday, continuing for two weeks.
- **Criteria Two (SCHOOLS)** - Regardless of the North Shore Burden rate, if a school's positivity rate is greater than or equal to 3.0% on a Friday, masks will be **required for that specific school** beginning the following Monday, continuing for 2 weeks.

Either of these two criteria will result in masking as indicated above. Mask requirement exceptions are found in the District's [In-Person Learning Plan](#).