

Dear Merrimack Families~

Yesterday, Governor Sununu announced an end to the mask mandate in the State of New Hampshire effective this evening, despite rising cases in the state of New Hampshire and in our community. As a result, I am sure that many of you are wondering what impact that decision will have on school and district operations.

Throughout the pandemic, district administration has prioritized student and staff safety while working as hard and as creatively as possible to maintain a quality educational experience for our students. We will continue to strike this balance until the virus no longer poses a threat to student and staff safety, primarily when full vaccination for all has been achieved. We are not there yet.

Therefore, despite the governor's order the Merrimack School District policy on the use of masks by students, staff and all visitors to schools and offices **remains in full effect**, as it has throughout this school year.

We are very close to the end of the school year and are working hard to welcome all students back to in person learning for the rest of the year. That requires more caution and care, not less, and a continued partnership between the schools and the community to make this all work. Our goal is to keep students and staff safe and the schools operating. We will not jeopardize that goal now by letting down our guard.

Once again, the district mask policy remains in full effect.

Thank you.

Mark McLaughlin