



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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February 9, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

This morning Commissioner of Education Jeff Riley and Governor Charlie Baker held a joint press conference regarding the State's mask mandate. In a correspondence sent today by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, it is stated that "after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner will not renew the state mask requirement after it expires on February 28, 2022. Effective Monday, February 28, the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide. The Commonwealth's high vaccination rates and widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school personnel and students support this decision."

As of Monday, February 28th, all masking policies will revert to individual districts and their specific school policies. At this time, the Face Covering Policy is a Milton School Committee Policy. In light of today's announcement and the mask waiver granted to MPS by the State on Monday, February 7th, any changes to the MPS mask policy, including use of the waiver, will need to be made at a public School Committee meeting. The next School Committee meeting is on Wednesday, February 16th and it is planned that at that time the Policy Subcommittee will give a report to the full School Committee and discuss/recommend next steps.

There are a few points that I want to emphasize to all:

1. Masking will continue to be required on all school buses until further notice as this is a federal order.
2. DESE and DPH strongly recommend students and all school personnel continue to follow the [DESE-DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios](#).
3. Along with the advice of DESE and DPH, Milton Public Schools Administration strongly urges all eligible individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and booster if eligible. You can check in with your local CVS, Walgreens, your Primary Care Physician (PCP) or your child's pediatrician. For your convenience and to assist you in finding a location to get the COVID 19 vaccine, I am providing the following links:

<https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>
<https://www.manetchc.org/covid-19-vaccine/>

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The Milton Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, transgender status, gender transitioning, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, or military status, in any of its programs, activities or operations. These include, but are not limited to, admissions, equal access to programs and activities, hiring and firing of staff, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Milton Public Schools. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Janet Sheehan, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Human, 617-696-4812

MPS is also partnering with the Department of Public Health to host school vaccination clinics for your eligible children ages 5 and up. These clinics will offer the Pfizer vaccine as an initial vaccine, second dose or booster. Clinics will be held on **Saturday, March 5th at Milton High School** and **Saturday, March 26th at Pierce Middle School**. The link to register for the first clinic can be found here: [Vaccine Clinic Registration ³/₅](#).

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff is paramount and we will continue to work within the Milton Public Schools community to provide a welcoming and safe environment that is conducive for excellent teaching and learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Jette", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James F Jette
Superintendent
Milton Public Schools
(617) 696-4808/4809

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