



# Dartmouth Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent*

8 Bush Street  
Dartmouth, Massachusetts 02748  
Telephone: 508-997-3391  
Website: [www.dartmouth.school](http://www.dartmouth.school)

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of  
Dartmouth Public Schools

James A. Kiely, M.B.A.  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Finance and Operation

February 15, 2022

Dear Faculty and Staff/Parent/Caregiver:

As conveyed in my previous communication, Commissioner Riley, along with Governor Baker recently announced that the state mask requirement will expire on February 28, 2022. In response, the Dartmouth School Committee voted to suspend its current face covering policy during last night's meeting. As a result the Dartmouth Public School District will eliminate the current face covering policy beginning on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please note we continue to experience fewer and fewer COVID cases in the schools and are hopeful this trend will continue. As a precaution we will continue to implement symptomatic testing and the "at home testing" program for as long as the state sends us the tests.

I want to emphasize that staff and students in our schools have the option of wearing masks if they so choose. We expect everyone in our school community to respect others' opinions and choices relative to mask wearing.

Please note the following important points:

- As per federal requirements face coverings are still required on school busses.
- As per the CDC and DPH face coverings are required in nurses' offices.
- Anyone returning from a positive diagnosis is required to wear a mask for 5 days upon return.

Given these rules it is critical that students continue to bring a mask to school with them. We cannot expect our bus drivers to monitor mask wearing when students board the bus and do not want to put mask wearing monitoring on the nurses' already full plates. **Please help us abide by the rules by ensuring your child has a mask with them when heading to school.**

Our schools will begin to shift to "normal" practices such as eliminating pods at the elementary school (as an example). You will receive an informational letter from your child's school at the end of the week.

We all share in the frustration the last two years have caused. I continue to applaud our staff and faculty for the exemplary efforts demonstrated in the face of the challenges that were presented on a daily basis. It's been a daunting journey at times that would not have been accomplished if not for the tireless determination of our faculty and staff.

We want to thank the community for supporting our schools throughout this very challenging time.

Sincerely,

Bonny L. Gifford Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools