

Dear BSCSD Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members:

As many of you are aware, on Friday, February 25, 2022 the Centers for Disease (CDC) control announced a new classification for “Community Levels” of COVID risk which is based on three measures:

1. Hospitalizations with COVID (not just for COVID),
2. Hospital bed availability, and
3. New COVID cases.

For those counties with *Low* and *Medium* levels, masks are no longer required in schools. Saratoga County is currently classified at a **Low** Level.

The CDC also announced on Friday that masks are no longer required on school buses.

As a result, this afternoon NY Governor Hochul announced that **effective this Wednesday, March 2, 2022 masks are no longer required in our schools or on our buses. We ask that you please work with us on Monday and Tuesday as masks are still required on these days.**

It is very important to keep in mind that students, staff, and visitors may choose to wear masks and under no circumstances are they to be made uncomfortable for doing so. Our focus will remain on our student and staff wellness such that we can provide the best possible learning environments that are free from these types of distractions. We can all work together to make sure that we accomplish this such that the coming months are a new normal and a celebration of learning in our classrooms, on our stages, and on our fields and courts.

We will continue to make rapid tests available for students and staff, will provide KN95 masks to all staff, Middle and High School students (and to K-5 students as soon as our shipment arrives), and will offer vaccination clinics in cooperation with Saratoga County Public Health for students and staff.

We will send additional information on any changes to other strategies that are currently in place including social distancing and quarantining as soon as it is available. In the meantime all such strategies will remain in place. Please check back to our website and our Scottie Scoop page for common questions and our answers.

We encourage parents to utilize the COVID-19 testing kits provided by your child’s school should they have any symptoms prior to their return to school this week. Please continue to report any positive cases of COVID-19 to our COVIDreport@bscsd.org mailbox and the Saratoga County Public Health Services – at this [link](#).

On behalf of the Board of Education, my sincere thanks to you all for working together to get us to this point. As I have stated before, what we as a community have in common – most notably our children – is far greater and far more important than any of our differences. I ask that we keep this in mind as we return to school this week and as we continue to see divisive issues permeate the news locally, nationally, and internationally.

Thanks very much.

Ken Slentz
Superintendent of Schools