



9 February, 2022

Dear Ballston Spa Parents and Caregivers:

As some of you are aware by now, at this morning's press conference, Governor Hochul announced that the New York State mask mandate that applies to *businesses* will be lifted effective tomorrow. However, the mask mandate for *schools* and similar environments will remain in place. The Governor stated that after the February break she will be reviewing various data points regarding the virus (e.g., cases per 100,000, percent positivity, pediatric hospitalizations, etc.) to determine if and when the mask mandate might be lifted.

She also noted that she is encouraging parents to test their children on the day they return to school on February 28 and again three days later. To our knowledge, this is not a requirement, but simply an encouragement from the governor. As noted in a previous email, if you are in need of test kits to have on hand for your children during and shortly after the February break, please contact your child's building principal.

As a reminder, please visit our [Coping with COVID-19](#) webpage for information on how to report positive cases to the district and to Saratoga County Public Health Services. Please also visit our [Current COVID-19 Cases in BSCSD](#) page where you will see our positive case numbers continuing to drop. Thanks to you all for your ongoing support and partnership in getting us to this point!

We will continue to keep you updated on any news related to this as we receive it from credible sources.

Thanks very much.

Ken Slentz
Superintendent of Schools