

February 27, 2022

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff: ([en Español](#))

This weekend, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance and is **no longer requiring masks to be worn on buses or vans** operated by public school systems.

The CDC is making this change to align with its updated guidance that no longer recommends universal indoor masking in K-12 schools in areas with a low or medium COVID-19 community level. Currently, Cook County is considered a low COVID-19 community level. This information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

In October 2021, District 211 was one of more than 140 school districts across Illinois named as a defendant in a lawsuit regarding the enforcement of Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders mandating specific COVID-19 mitigation requirements in schools. On Friday evening, the Illinois Supreme Court vacated the lower court's temporary restraining order in this lawsuit. This means, at this point, if a school mask mandate needs to go into effect in the future, the Governor continues to have that authority. The full lawsuit remains at the Circuit Court level.

This weekend, Governor Pritzker announced the State will be following the CDC guidance that masks are needed only in areas of high transmission. The State of Illinois will move forward with removing the school mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022.

In District 211, masks are now optional on District 211 transportation and remain optional in our schools. Within our school communities, we respect and support individual, family and staff choices regarding their decisions surrounding wearing masks. We cannot stress enough the importance of respect for individual choices within our buildings.

District 211 continues to be in direct communication with the Cook County Department of Public Health regarding COVID-19 mitigations and cases in District 211 schools. COVID-19 testing remains available free of charge to District 211 students and staff. More information on testing can be found here: <https://adc.d211.org/Page/8134>.

Please let your school's administration know if there are challenges that we can help you or your family work through. We are in this together, and I continue to be grateful for each opportunity and experience we are offering our students this year even among the unique challenges and changes we have faced. Thank you for your continued partnership with our high schools.

Sincerely,

Lisa Small, Ed.D.
Superintendent