



BYRAM HILLS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

June 5, 2021

To the Byram Hills School Community,

You may have heard that Howard Zucker, NYS Commissioner of Health, wrote a [letter to the CDC](#) on Friday seeking guidance on a plan to change the mask mandate in schools. Please read the letter, which argues for encouraging but not requiring masks in schools, except under high risk circumstances.

I know that there are people who stand on both sides of the mask mandate issue - some who worry for the safety of their families if exposed to unvaccinated people - and others who do not think the same way and want their children to take their masks off - vaccinated or not. I do worry about the potential for mass quarantines with a few weeks left to the year. I also know that many are vaccinated adults and older students and that transmission rates outside are negligible. I will share these thoughts with the Board.

I will continue to watch for guidance this weekend from Howard Zucker. The District will also need to see guidance on who needs to quarantine under the new guidance when a COVID positive case is identified. We have end of the year celebrations, school, camp, and individual health to consider.

The BOARD OF EDUCATION and I will discuss the potential lifting of the mask mandate at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, if new guidance is available, and I will report back to the community on Wednesday with the District decision if one can be made at that time.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools