



BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear BPS Families and Staff,

We are anticipating that updated mask guidance will be announced on Monday, June 7 from the New York State Department of Health. I am writing to inform you that all staff and students in BPS must continue to wear masks and social distance for the remainder of the academic year. The reasons are:

- There is still COVID in the community. Several zip codes where our students reside are reporting relatively high incidence rates.
- COVID cases right now in Erie County are highest in the 10-19 age group. Though teens are rarely hospitalized with COVID, cases can be severe.
- ALL children should have equal opportunity to be safe in school. We do not wish to single out any child who cannot be vaccinated, is immunocompromised, or is medically fragile and susceptible to severe COVID disease.
- More children 12 years and older and more adults should be encouraged to be vaccinated.
- Erie County DOH saw multiple school outbreaks this winter and spring when distancing and masking were not adhered to.
- Our safety protocols work. Buffalo Public Schools had no outbreaks even as we opened schools for in-person learning through the winter and spring. COVID rates were much higher then.

In the weeks ahead, we will reexamine how we conduct our in-school COVID testing strategy to reflect the lower overall community spread. We will continue to conduct rapid antigen testing for those who are symptomatic.

We will monitor our safety protocols and cases through the remainder of the school year. I will issue safety directives for summer school in several weeks.

Thank you for your full cooperation on this important safety matter for all of our children, families and staff.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent

"Putting Children & Families First to Ensure High Academic Achievement for All"