

COVID Task Force

February 15, 2022



Agenda

1. Mask Optional/Mask Required Numbers a Comparison
2. Transition Plan to Mask Optional

Current Numbers 2/15/22

NUMBER OF STUDENT CASES Since Start of School

EMHS - 158

EES - 181

Staff - 42

Last Several Weeks

COVID Positive Cases

1/24 - 1/30 - Staff (1) - Students (10)

1/31 - 2/6 - Staff (0) - Students (9)

2/7 - 2/11- Staff (1) - Students (8)

Mask Optional vs Mask Required Numbers

- Coe-Brown - 327 recovered cases (2/9) - 827 student population - just high school age
- $(1.07)327 = 350$ Total cases if had same student population
- [Coe-Brown Covid Numbers](#)

State Changes

MASSACHUSETTS: The state's school mask mandate will be lifted on Feb. 28. "We have all the tools to keep schools safe as we move into dealing with the next phase of managing COVID," Gov. Charlie Baker said.

CONNECTICUT: The state's school mask mandate will end on Feb. 28, allowing local districts to determine requirements for face coverings.

DELAWARE: Gov. John Carney has announced that the statewide school mask mandate will end on March 31. Parents have ample time to get children vaccinated between now and then, Carney said.

State Changes

NEW JERSEY: The state's universal mask mandate will end on March 7. "Balancing public health with getting back to some semblance of normalcy is not easy. But we can responsibly take this step due to declining COVID numbers and growth in vaccinations," Gov. Phil Murphy said on Twitter.

OREGON: The state's mask mandate for schools will expire on March 31. "Mask requirements for schools will remain in place until March 31 to give children time to get fully vaccinated before masks are no longer required in schools," officials said.

RHODE ISLAND: The school mask mandate will be lifted on March 4.

Considerations

Drawbacks of masks versus health benefits

Local numbers have drastically improved

Unreliable reporting - accuracy of numbers no longer available

Changes in DHHS Requirements - No longer contact tracing -

Vaccines available to anyone 5 and older

Mental health and stress of wearing masks

Considerations

Verbal and nonverbal impact of masks on education

Mask quality and compliance versus M95

Need to have the transition conversations

Masking is not sustainable

Proposed Epping Mask Optional Transition Plan

- On March 21, 2022 Epping School District is Mask Optional
- This timeline allows us to monitor Covid trends and confirm if they are sustained at current levels
- Allows enough notices to families if they wish to schedule vaccination appointments
- If a February break spike occurs it allows an additional safety strategy to remain in place until that spike has passed