

July 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Summer School Programs:

The New York State Department of Health has updated their guidance for summer school programs, relaxing the mask requirement for vaccinated students and staff. Effective Monday (July 12), we will no longer require masks for vaccinated students and vaccinated staff in summer school programs hosted in our district, including the Horseheads Extended School Year (ESY) program. Unvaccinated staff must wear a face covering at all times while indoors. We strongly recommend that masks continue to be worn by unvaccinated students while indoors.

Please be aware that the state still requires masks on student transportation vehicles. If your child rides the bus or other school vehicle to and from school, your student must continue to wear a mask while on the school bus or vehicle.

At this time, the daily health screenings for staff and students will remain in place. We ask that you continue to submit health screenings daily, and we remind everyone that students and staff who feel ill should not attend school. Please contact the principal if your student is ill.

Please be aware that these protocols may change based on data and contact with our local and state health departments. Our priority is to maintain the safety of our students and staff.

If your child attends summer school in a location outside our district, follow the protocols set forth by that district. Please contact the summer school principal at your child's location if you have questions. If you have questions about the Horseheads ESY program, contact Theresa Woodworth at twoodworth@horseheadsdistrict.com or (607) 739-5601, x2125.

Note that this new guidance does not provide any information on requirements for the 2021-22 school year beginning in September. The Department of Health has indicated that this guidance will be issued soon, and we will share that information when we receive it.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools