



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools*

February 8, 2022

Dear RPS Community,

By now, it is likely that you have read or viewed Governor Lamont's announcement on the recommendation to lift the state wide mask mandate in schools by February 28, 2022. The Commissioner of Education, and DPH both added context/perspective to the Governor's decision and its impact on schools. If you have not had the opportunity to view the press conference, you may do so [here](#). In summary, the Governor is recommending that mask wearing be a local decision beginning February 28th. As you can imagine, since the Governor's announcement, we have received many emails expressing families' perspectives and/or experiences on masking in schools. We value feedback and recognize that the topic of mask wearing in schools is an important one for everyone, and most of all, for our students.

As we have worked to do in the past, we will continue to partner with CSDE, DPH, as well as our local health and safety committee to provide clear and comprehensive communication to families. The DPH and Commissioner of Education have indicated that they will provide school districts with guidance to help navigate and operationalize this decision. We may or may not have this guidance by the time of our next Board of Education meeting on February 14, 2022. That said, our goal for the Board of Education meeting on February 14th is, to at minimum, begin the discussion, and if needed, communicate further details at a later date.

I hope this email helps clarify next steps.

Susie

Dr. Susie Da Silva, Superintendent of Schools