

Beginning Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> at midnight, the statewide indoor mask mandate was lifted. That means masks will be **recommended but optional** at in schools beginning today, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your diligence in properly wearing masks during the past two school years. Your efforts have directly impacted local COVID-19 case counts, which are in steep decline.

We understand that these changes may be concerning for some. We know that some staff and students will decide they are done wearing masks all together, while others will continue wearing them. We support and respect people's decisions.

It's important to note that we don't know if or when masks may be required again. As public health experts monitor COVID-19 in our community, the guidance may be temporarily updated in the future. We will update you if such changes are necessary.

Starting March 12, regardless of vaccination status, someone who is symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for five days. If their symptoms have improved and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without medication, they may return to school on day 6 with the following options:

- **They can wear a well-fitting mask for days 6-10 after their 5-day at-home isolation, OR**
- **They can submit a negative COVID-test result taken any day after day 5, OR**
- **If they opt out of wearing a mask or providing a negative test result, they can continue their isolation through day 10.**

Exposed students and staff may continue to participate in school and extracurricular activities if they are not symptomatic. If an exposed student or staff develops symptoms, they are **required** to immediately isolate at home and follow the protocols outlined by DOH.

It's essential that students and staff continue to:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Watch for symptoms of COVID-19
- Maintain physical distancing to the extent possible
- Wash and sanitize your hands throughout the day

We know how incredibly difficult this pandemic has been for our school district community, and we appreciate your continued efforts to protect the health and safety of all.

If there are question or concerns about any of this information, please take the opportunity to discuss it with either myself or Kim Brown our assistant director.

Wes Allen  
Director, Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center