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June 6, 2021

Dear Cleveland Hill Community,

As you may have heard from various news outlets, NYS Health Commissioner Howard Zucker released a letter yesterday that he sent to the Director of the CDC regarding a potential change to the use of masks in school. In the letter, Dr. Zucker indicated that the state is planning on issuing new guidance that will significantly reduce mask wearing requirements in schools. We have been told that this official guidance will be released Monday.

From what we understand now, the NYSDOH is considering the following changes:

- Indoors, mask use will be strongly encouraged but not required for students, faculty and staff who are not fully vaccinated.
- Outdoors, masks are not required; students, faculty and staff who are not fully vaccinated are “encouraged” to wear a mask in certain higher-risk circumstances.
- Both indoors and outdoors, students, faculty and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks.
- Schools and camps may choose to implement stricter standards.

The Cleveland Hill School District has consistently followed the health and safety regulations released by the NYSDOH over the course of the pandemic. When we receive these new guidelines, we will communicate them with you and put them into effect as soon as possible.

We respectfully ask that students and staff continue to follow our current practice of wearing masks as we await the NYSDOH statement officially changing the mask guidance.

Once the guidance is official, the district will review it, communicate that with you, and then follow it accordingly.

I thank you in advance for your continued cooperation in helping to keep our schools as safe and secure as they can be.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jon MacSwan
Superintendent of Schools
Cleveland Hill Union Free School District