



February 23, 2022

Dear LEARN Community,

On February 18, 2022, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) released its latest [guidance](#) for school districts. This guidance helps districts manage the transition from emergency COVID pandemic practices to routine public health practices. Using that guidance, I would like to announce the following:

### **Masks are Recommended in LEARN Schools and Buildings Beginning February 28**

LEARN is shifting its guidelines around mask wearing.

- Beginning February 28, LEARN will *recommend* that masks be worn in our schools and school-based programs; masks will no longer be required.
- As of February 28, school staff will no longer monitor or enforce mask-wearing in our schools and school-based programs.

This shift in our guidelines means that parents, students, staff, and visitors will decide for themselves if they should wear a mask in our schools and school-based programs. LEARN supports each individual's right to decide for themselves. Bullying or harassment of any person for any reason, including mask wearing, will not be tolerated.

Families are asked to please inform their child of their expectations regarding mask wearing.

### **Masks Required on Buses and in Nurses' Offices**

Per federal law, students must still wear a mask on buses. Additionally, students will be required to wear a mask when visiting the school/program nurse's office.

### **Other Health Practices**

During the first two weeks of March, LEARN schools will maintain efforts to maximize spacing where possible, promote regular handwashing, and encourage everyone to stay home when ill.

Parents/guardians/caregivers are asked to please continue to monitor symptoms of illness daily and keep your child home from school when the child is symptomatic. Please be in contact with your school nurse if you have questions. If your child has been in close contact with a COVID positive person or tests positive for COVID, please continue to reach out to the school nurse for further instructions about dates of quarantine, isolation and return back to school dates.

Per the new DPH/CSDE guidance, LEARN will continue to report COVID numbers to the state and to the school community.

Students and staff who test positive must quarantine for 5 days and wear a mask upon return to school for days 6-10. (Parents may opt to keep a student home for the full 10 day quarantine period if they wish.)



In partnership with LEARN's medical advisor and Ledge Light Health district, we will monitor the impact of removing the mask mandate at each of our schools/programs. The LEARN team is pleased to see multiple days of zero cases during the past two weeks. We are hopeful that this trend will continue even as mitigation measures shift.

### **Test Kit Distribution**

LEARN is receiving a third round of COVID-19 tests from the state. All students will be provided a test kit. We ask that you use the test kit either Sunday night or Monday morning to test your child prior to them coming to school. Any individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to test as per the guidance from the CDC. All positive cases should be reported to the school nurse.

Thank you for your continued support, as we enter a new phase of this pandemic. The health and safety of all are still a LEARN priority.

Sincerely,

Kate Ericson  
*LEARN Executive Director*