



Binghamton City School District

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March 3, 2022

NYS Dept. of Health Mask Optional Guidance:

It has been wonderful to see the smiling faces of so many of our students today. Still, we must take other precautions (i.e., social distancing, testing, personal hygiene) to maintain a safe learning environment. The New York State Department of Health just released guidance for schools on Mask Optional environments in schools. The guidance states the following:

- Students or staff who have tested positive for COVID and return after a 5-day isolation must wear a mask from day 6 through day 10
- Students or staff, regardless of vaccination status, who have been exposed to a COVID positive individual should wear a mask for 10 days after the date of exposure and should test twice during the 5-day period after exposure (Individuals who have tested positive within the last 3 months do not need to test unless they develop symptoms). This supports our current Test to Stay program; and,
- An exposure is defined as an individual that has been within 6 feet of a positive case for a total of 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period.

Masks are optional and may be worn at any time. Please help us promote a “mask positive” environment so that no one is made to feel stigmatized, bullied, or uncomfortable based on their personal choice to wear a mask or not. Thank you for your support and understanding as we strive to keep our school buildings safe, healthy, and respectful spaces for all.

Educating, empowering, and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.