

February 25, 2022

Dear TESD Families and Staff,

Earlier today [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) announced updated information on how COVID-19 community levels will be measured](#) and what school and community mitigation strategies are recommended. Below is a summary of the new CDC guidelines and how they will impact our school community.

Summary of CDC Guidelines

- The CDC has identified three new COVID-19 community levels: low, medium and high.
- Masking indoors in public spaces, including schools, is impacted by these levels.
- Individuals should mask indoors when the community level is high.
- **As of today, Chester County is in the medium community level.** In the medium community level, the CDC indicates that individuals who are at high risk for severe illness should talk to their healthcare provider about the need to wear a mask and take other precautions.
- The CDC states that individuals may choose to wear a mask at any time regardless of community level.

The TESD Health & Safety Plan has allowed for revisions to be made between Board meetings when health authority guidance has changed. **As a result, TESD will transition to mask choice effective Monday, February 28, 2022.**

- In accordance with the new CDC guidelines, masks will be optional in TESD while inside our schools effective Monday.
- CDC no longer mandates masks on school district buses and vehicles.
- When community levels are low or medium, TESD fully supports any student or staff member who chooses to wear a mask or not to wear a mask. We expect all individuals to respect the choices made by others.
- If you believe your child may have a condition that requires a specific medical accommodation, please contact your school nurse.
- We will focus on implementing mask choice on Monday. Other adjustments will be phased in and communicated to you by your child's principal.
- The District Health and Safety Plan that was posted last Friday will be updated and re-posted before 7:30 pm on Sunday, February 27 to reflect the CDC's new guidance.
- This updated plan will be presented at the regularly scheduled School Board meeting on Monday at 7:30 pm at Valley Forge Middle School.

Ongoing COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols Remain in Effect

- Families should continue to conduct symptom screening at home. [Click here for the family symptom screening checklist](#). If your child has a symptom of COVID-19, keep your child home from school and contact your healthcare provider. Contact the student attendance office.
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are still required to isolate for 5 days and wear a mask for 10 days. If your child is symptom-free they may return to school on Day 6 and must wear a mask through Day 10 per the [Chester County Health Department](#).

We know there has been much discussion about masking and strong opinions within our community. Please remind your child to be respectful of other student and staff members' mask choices. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we adapt to these new changes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Gusick