

BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 26, 2022

Dear Parents and Staff,

Late yesterday, the CDC issued guidance that the TSA mask mandate for public transportation no longer applies to public or private schools. CDC made this change to align with [updated guidance](#) that no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 schools in areas with low or medium COVID-19 Community Level. As such, beginning this Monday, February 28th masks on BPS school buses are now optional and no longer required.

In addition, the CDC launched a new COVID surveillance report tool called “Community Levels”, which uses metrics more closely aligned with significant outcomes from COVID-19 infection, rather than infections alone, to help inform individuals and communities about recommended prevention strategies. This new tool utilizes hospitalizations, hospital bed capacity, and new infections as the primary indicators used to determine whether a community is designated as a “high, medium, or low” community. You can view the new tool by following this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>. Please note at this time the community level for Tolland County is low.

The Eastern Highlands Health District will use the data presented in this tool, along with state and town level data, to inform their recommendations to districts moving forward.

Enjoy the weekend!

Stay safe and be well,

Kristin B. Heckt

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Superintendent of Schools