16 March 2022

Dear RCCA Family,

On Monday, March 14, 2022, Chicago Public Schools went mask optional for Staff and Students in preschool through twelve grades due to low community transmission.

Mask-Optional Model

Students, families, staff, and vendors are encouraged, but not required, to wear a mask in school buildings, on school property and school buses, and during special classes, extra-curricular activities, and enrichment programs. Schools should continue to encourage six feet of social distancing between individuals whenever possible, and the District will send vendor partners all updated health guidelines.

Mask-optional guidance is based on the current low community transmission of COVID-19. If community transmission rates increase to moderate or high levels, Chicago Public Schools may return to required masking for all individuals. Masks will still be required in several specific situations, which are outlined below. Please note that this guidance is subject to further change based on updates from CDC, CDPH, IDPH, and ISBE.

In preparation of the Mask-Optional model, The office of Student Health and Wellness has drafted this guidance for Principals to make them aware of Student’s who should remain masked due to testing positive for COVID 19 or being exposed to the virus. Our IT team has worked diligently to build a mask indicator filter in Aspen. Our procedure will be as follows:

- When a positive case is self-reported or reported via Surveillance, the case will be investigated by the School’s contact tracing team or by a Contact Tracer in the OSHW Contact Tracing department.
• True close contacts will be added via the Close Contact Submission form by the Principal or by the District’s Contact Tracer.
• The case will be completed by the OSHW Contact tracing team and all close contacts will be notified
• All True Close Contacts who are unvaccinated will need to learn remotely from home for 5 days from the last date of exposure and then wear masks from days 6 through 10 when they return to in person learning.
• All True Close Contacts who are vaccinated will not need to learn from home remotely if they are asymptomatic. However, they would need to wear masks from days 1 through 10 while in person learning.

Educationally,
Devon Morales
Assistant Principal