



Rollinsford Grade School

Richard Hartford, Principal

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Dear RGS Parents and Staff members,

This letter serves to update you all on updated COVID guidance from Governor Sununu, the NH Department of Health and Human Services, and NH Department of Education. On February 23, 2022, The New Hampshire Division of Public Health updated its recommendations for the use of face coverings. This new guidance no longer recommends universal face mask use, in either indoor or outdoor settings, including specifically in school settings. As a result, the Rollinsford School District will **no longer mandate that masks are worn by all staff, students, and visitors inside of the building effective immediately**. Please understand that masks will remain OPTIONAL for those adults and children who choose to wear them. Other than returning to school for in-person learning from remote learning, this is the biggest transition our school will go through since the pandemic began. It is imperative we ALL continue to respect the choices and decisions each individual makes as we enter this transition and all students, staff members, or parents/visitors to our school should be treated with respect regardless of their individual choice.

It is also important for everyone to understand that other protocols and procedures in regards to COVID remain in place and will be followed at Rollinsford Grade School. Specifically,

***per federal law, masks are still required on school buses nationwide. We will notify families when this mandate expires.**

***parents are expected to keep their children home with any COVID symptoms, or pick them up from school if symptoms occur, and are encouraged to have their child tested for COVID, otherwise they will need to follow the current isolation guidelines before returning to school.**

***if you are returning to school after testing positive with COVID after being in isolation for 5 days, DHHS is still requiring wearing a mask in all indoor facilities (including schools) for the next 5 days. If you choose not to wear a mask, then you must remain in isolation for the additional 5 days, for a total of 10 days.**

***we will continue to maintain at least 3-foot distancing whenever possible in our classrooms.**

***daily cleaning in our buildings will continue to occur.**

Thank you all for your continued support! High praise goes out to School Nurse Gail Claverie for being the face of Health and Safety in our school for the last two years, and for many more prior to the pandemic. Thank you to our hard-working, dedicated staff for optimizing the learning of our students each and every day! And, thank you to our supportive parents for understanding the importance of keeping ALL members of our RGS community safe during this pandemic. COVID does still exist, so please remain vigilant and communicate as needed with us regarding any pertinent health issues your student may be experiencing.

Sincerely,

Richard Hartford, RGS Principal