



Pearl River School District

135 West Crooked Hill Road
Pearl River, New York 10965-2730
www.pearlriver.org
Phone: 845-620-3900 – Fax: 845-920-0494

6-8-21 Message from Superintendent

Dear Pearl River School Community,

While I am relieved that Governor Cuomo has allowed districts to lift the mask mandate for students and staff outdoors, I believe there must be continued progress needed in this area so the policy correctly aligns with circumstances in each school community.

You may have heard that school districts have attempted to remove the mask requirement for students indoors, despite the fact that the Governor said that students and staff must continue to wear masks indoors.

A school district in Long Island, Massapequa, notified its school community today that they were contacted by a representative from the Governor's Office and directed to resume wearing masks indoors. They were warned of sanctions that included monetary fines, and closure of in-person instruction. Late last month the Commack School District, also in Long Island, had a similar experience when they attempted to independently change the mask policy.

I want to clarify that the mask mandate that we are ordered to comply with comes from the Governor of New York State. The guidance that we must follow is generated by the New York State Department of Health. The NYSDOH has consistently followed the guidance of the CDC. School districts do not have the latitude to deviate from the State's guidance in this matter.

We will move rapidly to access any update in State guidance for our school district community while abiding by the existing regulations.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed. D.