



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

January 25, 2022

Dear Pearl River School Community,

We are aware of Monday's court ruling related to the New York State mask mandate. We received the following communication last night from the NYS Education Department:

*It is the New York State Department of Education's (NYSED) understanding that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will appeal the Nassau County Supreme Court decision, which will result in an automatic stay, that will restore the mask mandate until such time that an appellate court issues a further ruling. **Therefore, schools in New York State must continue to follow the existing mask rule.***

In our schools we are seeing a vastly improved picture with numbers of new cases sharply decreasing since the holiday period. This is very encouraging and it seems we are very likely approaching a point where we see significant changes with how schools have to operate with regards to COVID-19. However, at this time, we will continue with face covering compliance and we respectfully ask our students, families and staff for your patience and understanding as we work through what we believe will be the last hurdles of COVID restrictions.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed. D