

February 27, 2022

Dear EASTCONN Families, Staff and Students,

On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC updated its [guidance](#) regarding mask-wearing on public transportation, which includes school buses. The Connecticut State Departments of Public Health and Education issued guidance that aligns with that of the CDC. EASTCONN will follow this new CDC transportation guidance, which is based on encouraging data.

Beginning Monday, February 28, mask-wearing will be optional on EASTCONN school buses.

Many of our students ride school buses provided by their sending town or ride EASTCONN transportation that picks up from multiple towns. Adhering to CDC guidance provides consistency throughout our region.

Additionally, the CDC is currently working to update guidance for early childhood, K-12 and higher education facilities. In anticipation of this CDC updated guidance for schools, **mask-wearing will be optional in our EASTCONN K-12 Schools and programs beginning March 7.** Maintaining mask-wearing during this week will provide teachers and students the opportunity to discuss these changes, calm fears and build an understanding and respect for the choice individuals will make going forward. Changing the date from March 18 (as stated in our previous communication) to March 7 aligns with the anticipated release of the CDC changes for school facilities.

What has changed:

- **Beginning Monday, February 28, mask-wearing will be optional on EASTCONN school buses.**
- **Mask-wearing will be optional in our EASTCONN K-12 Schools and programs beginning March 7.**

We will continue to monitor CDC communications and guidance as we update our protocols and practices as needed.

As always, we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we navigate moving out of the pandemic.

With kind regards,

Diane Dugas, Director of Leading and Learning
Amy Margelony, Director of Pupil Services