



## Staff message on masking February 17, 2022

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Good afternoon staff,

Many of you heard today the governor's announcement that he is lifting the statewide mask mandate on March 21, 2022.

This change impacts many things in our schools and requires some clarifications and a look at implications. The Washington Department of Health is updating their [K-12 guidance](#), which will be complete in the coming weeks. Our local health district will be providing guidance in the coming days. In addition, requirements for masking on school busses is done through a federal mandate, which has not been changed at this moment.

There is ample time to clarify direction as nothing can change until March 21, according to the governor's timeline. **Masks are still required in Everett Public Schools and must be worn.**

Throughout this pandemic we have asked our students, families and staff to be both flexible and patient as we respond to guidance from local and state health authorities. We are asking that again today.

We will continue talking with our health authorities and communicate with you soon about the timing of any changes to COVID safety protocols.

Stay safe and be well

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman