



Family message on masking February 28, 2022

Good afternoon families,

This morning, Governor Inslee announced a change to the date the statewide indoor mask mandate will lift. Instead of March 21, the statewide mandate – including in schools and school buses – will lift at **11:59 pm on March 11**. This change is in alignment with announcements made this morning by Oregon and California.

This means beginning Monday, March 14, barring a new requirement from our local health department, masks will become optional in our school buildings and on school buses. Students and staff will have the choice to wear a mask at school, with the expectation that others' choices will be respected. One should not make assumptions regarding someone's beliefs or health status, nor should they comment on them. Our district will not tolerate bullying of any kind for those who choose to continue wearing masks.

Until March 14, masks will continue to be required for all students, staff and visitors in all Everett Public School District buildings and on buses.

The Washington Department of Health is updating their [K-12 guidance](#), which will be completed by March 7, so there likely will be additional adjustments to other COVID parameters in schools, like social distancing, etc. We will update you when they release their guidance.

Thank you for your continued flexibility and understanding as we navigate the changing requirements together.

Stay safe and be well,

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman