



## Mask-Wearing Guidance

The Montville Board of Education has suspended its mask policy and wearing face masks will be **optional but recommended** for students and staff in Montville Public Schools **beginning Monday, February 28**.

The decision to wear a mask is a choice which should be made by parents and their students, and all decisions will be respected by the school community. The school district will not discriminate against any student who chooses to wear or not wear a mask, nor will the district tolerate bullying or harassment of any student for their choice regarding mask wearing.

Parents and guardians should clearly communicate their expectations regarding mask-wearing to their children. School staff will not be responsible for monitoring or enforcing mask-wearing beginning on February 28.

Masks will still be required in certain instances in the school. Any child who goes to the nurse's office with symptoms of illness while at school will be asked to wear a mask.

Effective Monday, masks are no longer required on school buses.

**This change to masks-optional makes it especially important that you keep your child home when sick or when a close contact outside of school with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.**

COVID-19 test kits will be distributed to all families and staff members from 4-7 p.m. on March 2 and 3 from the main entrance at Montville High School. If your child has any symptom of illness or is a close contact with a positive person and you need additional test kits, you can contact your school nurse and arrange to pick up a test kit.

COVID-19 cases will continue to be posted on the district website, and we ask that you continue to report positive test results to your school nurse.

Athletes will be subject to all CIAC guidelines following a positive COVID test.

Should there be a large increase in COVID numbers in a classroom or school, an email will be sent to the school community alerting those students and staff members who may wish to wear a mask to school. Mask wearing will not be enforced by the schools unless the state issues a mask mandate or the Board reinstates its mask policy based on a change in case rates.