



Mr. Adam Stoltman, Superintendent
astoltman@aldenschools.org
(716) 937-9116 x4171
(716) 937-7132 fax
www.aldenschools.org

June 7, 2021

Dear ACS Families:

As you may have heard from various news outlets, NYS Health Commissioner Howard Zucker released a letter on June 4th that he sent to the Director of the CDC regarding a potential change to the use of masks in schools. In the letter, Dr. Zucker indicated that the state is planning on issuing new guidance that will significantly reduce mask-wearing requirements in schools. This morning, the significant mask-wearing announcement was specific only to individuals while outdoors.

In Governor Cuomo's press conference, it was announced that:

- Facemasks are no longer mandated for school districts for outdoor activities.
- Mask requirements remain in place for all indoor school activities when six (6) feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

The Alden Central School District has consistently followed the health and safety regulations released by the NYSDOH over the course of the pandemic. When we receive updated guidelines, we communicate them with you and put them into effect as soon as possible.

We respectfully ask students and staff to continue to follow our current practice of wearing masks while in our buildings. Effective immediately, Alden Central School District will respect students' and staff members' choice on mask-wearing anytime school activities are conducted outside, in accordance with the NYS Governor's press conference on June 7, 2021. I encourage families to discuss this with their children, so that they are prepared as they return to school Tuesday, June 8th.

I recognize that the mixed messages and lack of clarity from NYSDOH since Friday has been frustrating. Premature public announcements that change frequently is something local superintendents hope to avoid, as requested in our May 24, 2021, communication to the Governor's office regarding updated guidance for the opening of schools in September.

I thank you in advance for your continued cooperation in helping to keep our schools as safe and secure as they can be.

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools