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February 27, 2022

Dear Alden CSD Families, Employees, and Community:

On February 24, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a [new framework](#) for measuring COVID-19 in the community. Under these new guidelines, Erie County is now considered to be at a medium level. When at this level, the CDC no longer requires universal masking.

Based on this revised guidance and Governor Hochul's announcement today, effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022, masks will be optional for all Alden CSD students, employees, and visitors to our schools. As we have since the beginning of the pandemic, we will continue to follow the latest guidance and adjust these requirements should the community level change.

Additionally, the CDC [no longer](#) requires wearing masks on buses operated by public school systems. As such, masks will now be optional for students and adults that utilize our school buses.

Per the CDC guidance, “employees and students can continue to wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk.” Face coverings will continue to be available for anyone that would like one entering our buildings; and within the current guidance, choice will be respectfully honored. I encourage individuals to discuss the latest CDC guidance with their personal health care provider.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we collectively adjust to this evolving guidance as a school community. I hope you had a safe and enjoyable winter recess.

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools