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January 21, 2022

Dear Bulldog Families,

I am writing to provide you with an important update related to protective facial coverings for Olmsted Falls City Schools. In my last communication I indicated that we would re-evaluate the implementation of OFCS School Board Policy [8450.01](#) on January 28, 2022. This was based on virus modeling that indicated the COVID-19 surge would have slowed at that time. As most have seen, the news has been good in our county. As a result, ***the use of face coverings will again become optional for all grade levels and for staff beginning Monday, January 24.*** Further, ***beginning immediately, face coverings will be optional for all extra-curricular activities.***

The data demonstrates that we are past this current surge. Like you, my hope is that we will never see another. The current reported infection rate is at its lowest point (0.74) since the data began being tracked and demonstrates that we are entering a place where spread is not as high compared to previous measures. Further, the PCR has dropped dramatically in Cuyahoga County and the projections are that it will continue to decline. Finally, the calculated spread rate in our county is ranked second lowest in the State of Ohio (e.g. daily new cases are 95.8 per 100,000). Locally (within our school district) the number of cases that have been reported by students and staff are at an all time low. During the previous reporting period (week of Jan. 10) there were a total of 19 student cases and 1 staff case. During this reporting period, there are 3 student cases and 2 staff cases.

I want you to know that the district monitors our state, regional and local COVID-19 data on a daily basis. Moving forward the optional masking policy will remain in effect until such time that it needs to be revisited. Families should know that the district will continue to monitor COVID-19 spread and will use data at the state, regional and local level to assist with decision making. While I recognize that some believe we are going back-and-forth between implementing and not implementing the policy, that is intentional, and is the purpose of the policy. The policy is in place and will be enacted "during times of elevated communicable disease and spread within the community."

Sincerely,

James L. Lloyd

Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.
Superintendent

NOTE: Regardless of what is required in the schools, ***it is still a Federal requirement that all drivers and riders wear a mask on district transportation vehicles.***