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February 28, 2022

Governor Hochul announced Sunday, February 27, 2022 that the State mask mandate in schools will be lifted as of Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

**Effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022, masks will be optional for all students and staff at Global Concepts Charter School.** This includes while in school buildings, buses and extracurricular settings.

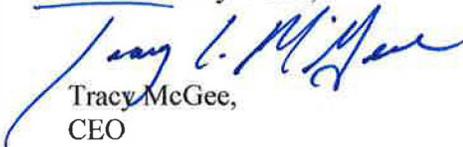
This shift comes from new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which categorizes all U.S. counties with a "[community COVID-19 level](#)." Erie County is currently at "medium" based on COVID-19 hospitalization measures.

In counties at a "medium" level, the following steps are recommended for individuals:

- If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease
  - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)
  - Have a plan for rapid testing, if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)
  - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease
  - consider self-testing to detect infection before contact
  - consider wearing a mask when indoors with them
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces, when possible
- Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19

All other COVID-19 requirements remain in place. Individuals who wish to continue wearing a mask in school, on buses or extracurricular settings are welcome to do so and will have our support in their individual decision.

Educationally Yours,



Tracy McGee,  
CEO

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