December 14, 2021

Dear Chardon Schools Parent/Guardian:

We continue to review and adjust our COVID-19 virus mitigation strategies in Chardon Schools when new information, guidance and recommendations are shared by health officials and medical experts. One key area of consideration is the use of masking as a COVID mitigation strategy.

Based on the Board resolution approved in open session on December 13, 2021, we will change from operating with a mask mandate to masks strongly recommended in our schools, beginning January 18, 2022. This change is based on the availability of vaccination for all age groups and additional mitigation strategies now in place in our schools including air purification systems in classrooms and buildings. Again, at that time, masks would still be recommended, but would not be mandatory. The exception here would still be on our school buses, where masks would be required as we continue to follow federal public health orders in regard to public transportation.

The reason we are sharing this now is so people have adequate time to plan. With emergency use of the COVID-19 vaccination being granted by the FDA for students ages 5 through 12, almost all of our students are now eligible for vaccination. The children's vaccination is currently available in our community and this gives enough time for those who choose this option for their children to get both doses prior to a change in the mask mandate at school. Part of our decision to require masks to start the school year was to protect young children who were not able to receive the COVID-19 vaccination like their older peers.

Please note: As with everything COVID-related, this could change. If virus transmission in our area is at a high level, or there are other unforeseen circumstances, our Board of Education may authorize returning to a mask mandatory status. Our most important goal is to keep our students and staff safe while also providing the greatest sense of normalcy in our schools.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent