

February 14, 2022

We are sharing the following due to the number of individual inquiries we have received inquiring about our current policy on masks in our schools. Additional information can be found at marylandpublicschools.org and on the HCPS COVID Resources FAQ at <https://www.hcps.org/covidresources/>.

The Board of Education of Harford County follows Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) guidelines on mask wearing in schools. In their latest update, MSDE provided the following:

At each monthly meeting, the State Board reviews current COVID-19 metrics in the State to assess the need for the continuation of the regulation; the next review will occur at the next State Board meeting on February 22, 2022. As a transition to ultimately lifting the face covering requirement, these research-based off ramps allow local superintendents and school boards to unilaterally lift the requirement as follows:

1. If at least 80 percent of the county population in the county where the schools are located is fully vaccinated, as reported by MDH.
2. The local superintendent may lift the face covering requirement for a school facility or facilities after a principal or designated school official verifies that 80 percent of the school staff and students in the school facility have been fully vaccinated.
3. The local superintendent may lift the face covering requirement in schools if the county has sustained 14 consecutive days of moderate or low transmission rate of COVID-19 cases, as reported by the CDC.

Harford County Public Schools does not currently meet any of the “off ramps” listed above. We continue to follow these guidelines and will provide updates as they become available.