

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

**INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT**

**DECISION ON**

**HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MASK WEARING REQUIREMENTS**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

**Background Information:**

For many months during the Covid-19 Pandemic mask wearing has been an essential Covid-19 prevention measure for HCPS students and staff. At certain times during the Pandemic, mask wearing has been required by HCPS or by the Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE). Currently and since September 2021, mask wearing in schools has been required by MSBE regulation. Mask wearing on public school buses was also required by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

**Discussion:**

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, the MSBE voted 12-2, to rescind its statewide school mask mandate and allow local school boards to set mask policies for their schools and facilities effective March 1, 2022. The above MSBE action was approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) on February 25, 2022.

On February 25, 2022, the CDC announced that the decision as to whether mask wearing on public school buses would be required would be left to the discretion of local school systems.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education

- 1) Lift the mask mandate in Harford County Public schools, facilities, and school busses, except for health suites, effective Tuesday, March 1, 2022;
- 2) Approve making masks optional indoors except for health suites, effective Tuesday, March 1, 2022.