

**WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**87 Buckley Road, Whitehall NY 12887**

Good afternoon,

June 7, 2021

I would like to provide an important update on the district's daily operations during the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to today's press conference by the Governor regarding masking.

Earlier today, Governor Cuomo held a press conference and stated that New York State will continue to require individuals to wear masks inside of school buildings. However, when outside, individuals will not be required to wear masks.

Please note, at this time, the official guidance has not been released and school districts are unable to make any changes to our daily operational plans until the Executive Order is provided in writing. Once issued, it is our intent that if the mask requirement is lifted for outdoor activities, the Whitehall Central School District will follow that protocol.

As I noted, NYS will not be changing the indoor mask requirement and we are required to enforce this mandate. All individuals will continue to be required to wear a mask inside the school building. However, given that we have transitioned into June and the days are getting warmer, if a student or staff member is experiencing difficulty with the heat and needs an extended drink or snack break in order to cool down; this is acceptable, so long as there is six feet of separation between individuals.

Once the official guidance document is provided, I will make sure to communicate any potential changes.

I fully appreciate how confusing the past few days have been and the difficulty in comprehending the different messages forwarded from the state. Please be assured that we are working tirelessly to advocate for our students and will continue to do so.

As always, I continue to appreciate your support and patience as we work through this challenging time together.

Patrick Dee

Superintendent of Schools