



01-25-2022 K12 Alert - Information Regarding Masking Requirements

January 25, 2022

Dear Tiger Students, Staff Members, and Families:

Last night, we were made aware that a State Supreme Court justice ruled that the Governor and State Department of Health do not have the legal authority to mandate masks to be worn in schools. After receiving word of that legal decision, school districts received the following communication from the State Education Department:

The State Education Department understands that Nassau County Supreme Court has ruled that the Department of Health exceeded its authority in enacting the mask regulation, 10 NYCRR 2.60, in Demetriou et al. v. New York State Dep't of Health et al. This regulation is the subject of conflicting decisions, insofar as Albany County Supreme Court recently upheld the regulation in Massapequa UFSD et al. v. Hochul, et al.

*It is SED's understanding that the Department of Health will appeal the Nassau County Supreme Court decision, which will result in an automatic stay that will unambiguously restore the mask rule until such time as an appellate court issues a further ruling. **Therefore, schools must continue to follow the mask rule.***

Our schools will abide by the directive from the State Education Department that masks remain mandated for all students, staff members, and visitors. We anticipate that there will be further information from the State Education Department on this topic in the near future, and we will share with you the updates that we receive.

With Tiger Pride,
Stephen Walker
Superintendent of Schools