



STATE OF WASHINGTON
*WASHINGTON CENTER FOR
DEAF and HARD of HEARING YOUTH*
611 Grand Blvd., S-26 Vancouver, Washington 98661-4918 • (360) 696-6525
Administration FAX (360) 696-6291 • Business Office FAX (360) 418-0418

February 22, 2022

Dear WSD/CDHY staff and families,

Last week Governor Inslee announced that the statewide indoor mask requirement for Washington State, including in our K–12 schools, is scheduled to end on March 21, 2022. When the statewide requirement is lifted, masks will be encouraged, but not required. Masks will remain mandatory on school buses per a federal mandate that requires masks to be worn on all forms of public transportation. The CDC may be revisiting this requirement as well.

Until March 21, masks will continue to be required for all students, staff and visitors in all CDHY/WSD buildings.

The governor shared that public health models indicate that cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19 will continue to decrease over the coming weeks, dropping to rates similar to last summer. He also shared that the decision to remove the statewide mask requirement was based on the best science and research available, as well as our collective experience.

Once the statewide mask requirement lifts, barring a new requirement from our local health department, masks will become optional in our school buildings. Staff and students will have the choice to wear a mask at school with the expectation that others' choices will be respected.

We understand that staff and families may have concerns and questions about the announcement; however, we do not have any additional information about the governor's announcement at this time.

*Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) - "BEST"
WSD is an ASL-English Bilingual campus.*





STATE OF WASHINGTON
*WASHINGTON CENTER FOR
DEAF and HARD of HEARING YOUTH*
611 Grand Blvd., S-26 Vancouver, Washington 98661-4918 • (360) 696-6525
Administration FAX (360) 696-6291 • Business Office FAX (360) 418-0418

The Washington State Department of Health is expected to release updated guidance for schools in the coming weeks, which will outline school health requirements and may include revisions to other mitigation measures such as contact tracing. We will review these guidelines when they are released and share information as soon as possible thereafter.

Many details still need to be understood and worked out before schools implement changes to masking policies. The state continues to require masks to be worn in schools across the state until March 21, 2022.

We will continue to share information as we have it, and appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Rick Hauan
Executive Director

Shauna Bilyeu,
Superintendent



*Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) - "BEST"
WSD is an ASL-English Bilingual campus.*

