



Dear Staff and Families,

As you know, Connecticut is moving into a new phase in the COVID-19 pandemic. With the reduction of cases and hospitalizations statewide, as well as the lack of transmission within schools, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Public Health (DPH), State Department of Education (SDE), and our local health district have provided guidance around the removal of face mask mandates in schools. Based on this guidance, as well as our high staff and student vaccination rates, our vigilant monitoring of symptoms, and feedback from staff and parents, **IEA will be making masks optional on March 21.** We know that this change can be met with excitement from some families and concern from others. Health and safety of our students and staff remain our top concern. We have had no new COVID-19 cases within our school community over the last two weeks and we feel confident that the low number of cases overall will continue.

We will still offer on-site weekly testing, and we encourage everyone to sign up and participate. (For students under 18, please [click here](#) to register. For students 18 and over, please [click here](#) to register. Access code = IEA-C19) Monitoring for any signs of illness remains essential. If a student or staff person is [feeling unwell](#), they should stay home and reach out to Mrs. LeDuc (860-310-2784 or [jeanurse@ie-academy.org](mailto:jeanurse@ie-academy.org)) or their healthcare provider for next steps. If at any point we begin to see an increased number of children or staff out due to illness we may consider reinstating use of masks for a period of time until we see numbers decrease again. We also encourage those who choose to continue to [wear a mask](#) to select the best fitting mask for the best protection. Additionally, please know that there will be circumstances where masks will still be required, such as from days 6-10 after returning from isolation or quarantine, which will be further detailed in the coming weeks. We continue to have N95 masks available for staff in the Main Office.

While more details will follow, we wanted to be sure to give you the latest update, as many towns and districts begin to make this change. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Stay well.

Jeff Forman  
Executive Director

Intensive Education Academy, Inc.

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