

## Westmoreland County Public Schools

### Public Announcement

As a result of communications with counsel and updated guidance, today we are sharing important updates related to COVID-19 guidance, effective on Monday, February 28, 2022:

- **Masks are now optional on school buses**
- **Masks are now optional for WMLCPS staff and visitors**

Guidance has shifted the last several weeks, reflecting the changing nature of COVID-19 and the effective presence of vaccinations. On Friday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [lifted the requirement for masks on school buses](#) and provided new tools to evaluate [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) and corresponding precautions.

On Monday February 28, 2022, the CDC further amended their guidance through their FAQ to reflect changes for masks to students riding buses, staff employed in schools, and for visitors to school buildings.

Taking into consideration the recent shifts in guidance and continued downward trend of cases in our community, masks will now be optional for WMLCPS staff and visitors to WMLCPS facilities. This change is being implemented because the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry requirements have been amended through the CDC's guidance.

We acknowledge that each family and individual is navigating this changing landscape in the way that is best for them, and we must be respectful of each other's choices.

Westmoreland County Schools will continue to partner with the Westmoreland Health Department on prevention strategies so schools can remain open and safe. We are committed to maintaining multiple mitigation strategies, including:

- Daily health assessment for students and staff
- Improved HVAC systems and ventilation
- Enhanced cleaning protocols/frequency
- Social distancing, where possible
- Isolation of those who test positive
- Sick and well clinic spaces