

Town of Webb Union Free School District
NEWS RELEASE
June 6, 2021

Town of Webb Union Free School District awaiting further guidance on state plans to change mask requirements

Town of Webb Union Free School District – in a joint decision with Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES and the ten other school districts in the region – is maintaining current mask-wearing requirements in schools as of now, while officials await further guidance on state plans to change the rules.

Late in the day on Friday, June 4, New York State Health Commissioner Howard Zucker released a letter he sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention saying the state would ease the mask requirements in schools effective Monday, June 7, to align with guidance for youth camps unless the CDC advises the state before Monday, June 7, that it should not take this action.

There has been no further guidance from the state Department of Health to local health departments and schools, it remains unclear how the CDC will respond to the letter and school organizations including the New York State Council of School Superintendents and the New York State United Teachers union are recommending not to enact these changes at this time. The letter from the state also says schools and camps may choose to implement stricter standards than the state outlined.

For these reasons, Superintendent Rex Germer, Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood and the 10 school superintendents in the Herkimer BOCES region agreed to not make any changes to mask-wearing requirements at this time.

The school districts in the Herkimer BOCES region are Central Valley, Dolgeville, Frankfort-Schuyler, Herkimer, Little Falls, Mount Markham, Owen D. Young, Poland, Richfield Springs and West Canada Valley. Each of the regional schools will consider implementing changes as soon as the proper state agency gives revised guidance.

The state Department of Health letter outlines various changes to mask-wearing requirements for schools, but these changes will not be enacted at the Town of Webb Union Free School District and schools in the Herkimer BOCES region at this time. Without any further guidance from the state, the rules around mask-wearing in all school settings, social distancing, health attestations, limits to gatherings and quarantines are all still in place for schools.

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