

Hampton Superintendent's Report  
To  
Hampton Board of Education  
2/23/22  
Written 2/16,2022

These past few weeks I have been focused on the rapidly changing Covid 19 mandates from the governor's office and the CSDE. The mask mandate is to be changed and the authority for the implementation of wearing masks in schools has been moved from the authority of the governor to the authority of the individual superintendents of schools across Connecticut.

In other words, there is no longer (as of February 28, 2022) a state wide school mask mandate. Each superintendent has been authorized to implement a local mask mandate. This was done without changing any of the other Covid protocols requirements.

In order for me to implement the best mask protocols at HES, I have re-implemented our HES Reopening Discussion Group of town citizens representing the government, parents, HES staff, BoE members, and administration. This group helped in creating our original reopening plan back in 2020-2021. It was this group that helped create the reopening plan that allowed HES to be open for 183 days in 2020-2021!

The HES Reopening Discussion Group met via Zoom on Tuesday evening, February 15 to review all of the most up to date information that reflected HES's current Covid information.

That information included the percentage of students in each team who were vaccinated:

Pre-K = 8%  
Team K-1 = 0%  
Team A + 26%  
Team B = 11%  
Team C = 38%

This gives us a total of 20% of all students who are vaccinated

All of our current staff are vaccinated with two exceptions - 1 bus driver (EastConn employee) and 1 substitute.

When you look at all students who have been vaccinated or have had Covid and therefore are considered to have gained natural immunity, then our students have a total of 67% falling into that category.

When the HES Reopening Discussion Group discussed their impressions and made recommendations as to how to proceed, the overall consensus was to allow parents to choose how they wish to handle the mask wearing/removal for their child.

The discussion did not focus on the other protocols that are also in place at HES.

Wednesday evening, the faculty and staff will have an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns. What ever the decision, they will have to implement any changes that are made. Ms. Sanchini took an unofficial poll of the faculty and staff on Monday 2/14/22 and found out the following:

12 = continue mask mandate at least until May 1, 2022  
4 = End mask mandate when 55% of students are vaccinated  
6 = Give parents a choice  
1 = End mask mandate except in hallways

Since I am writing this report before the faculty and staff actually meet, I cannot report what their consensus would be.

In addition, the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Northeast District Department of Health have not provided any directives that include the metrics Sam, Beverly, and I can use to justify the non-removal of masks or the reimposition of the mask mandate at some time in the future. This set of directives has been promised to be distributed before the February 28, 2022 change for masking in schools.

In addition, the Connecticut State Legislature is involved and the House has passed a bill on Covid restrictions and the Senate is still debating the issue (as of the writing of this report).

The issue for these 2 meetings was on the ending of the mask mandate being implemented by the governor. None of the other mandates were addressed in our discussions. The federal mandate for mask wearing on school buses remains in place. Here is a listing of our current HES protocols that will remain in place:

1. Masks must be worn on school buses (Federal requirement)
2. HVAC running 24/7
3. Sanitizing to be carried on nightly
4. No entry to HES by people other than students, staff, required repair people
5. All Covid forms / temperature checks of repair people
6. Lunches in Team rooms
7. Signs of Covid students set to nurse - if positive remain out 5 days
8. Meetings to be held on Zoom - including PPT's
9. Rapid tests are available to parents on request
10. No masks required outside during recess - remain 3' apart
11. Masks required for all mixing of Teams - Math & clubs (may change)
12. Art/Music/PH/Health to remain separated as currently practiced
13. Hand washing as currently practiced
14. Mask breaks (teacher choice depending on masking policy)
15. 3' separation of students

In addition, a set of procedures will be developed to address the implementation of any changes in Covid protocols. An email blast will be sent out to all parents concerning any changes in our HES Covid protocols as soon as possible once I receive clarity from the Governor's office, the bills passed by the legislature, the CSDE, and the various public health departments.

Finally, I will be the sole person responsible for any changes and their implementation of the Covid protocols at HES. Sam and Beverly remain trusted advisors.

Advice from individual BoE members would be helpful.

End