

May 18, 2021



Hello SDNB families and staff,

This evening, at a special School Board meeting, the Board of Education voted, 4-3, in favor of making the wearing of face masks by students, staff and visitors in all School District of New Berlin schools and facilities **recommended** rather than **required** for the remainder of the school year.

The change, which applies to ALL students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, is effective Friday, May 21. It applies to all SDNB functions, activities and athletics. There are the following exceptions:

- Masks continue to be required on buses per federal regulations.
- For WIAA-sponsored athletics, when traveling, the host school expectations must be followed along with WIAA expectations for the end-of-season tournament series.

Also, the School Board confirmed that between now and May 21, masks are not required for students, staff and visitors 16-and-older who are fully vaccinated, as announced by the District last week.

Please note the Center for Disease Control, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Waukesha County Public Health continue to recommend the use of face coverings indoors for all unvaccinated individuals. That said, the Board's decision comes at a time when several Waukesha County school districts have made the same change, including Waukesha, Elmbrook and Muskego-Norway, and it comes now, in part, because current trends in the data from the [School District of New Berlin COVID-19 Dashboard](#) and the [Waukesha County COVID Dashboard](#) indicate the disease is steadily decreasing. The current case rate of new daily confirmed cases for our school district is just more than five (5.2) cases per 100,000 population in the last seven days.

Additionally, all other COVID-19 mitigation strategies will remain in place through the rest of the school year, including but not limited to social distancing, the use of plexiglass and contact tracing. Likewise, we continue to ask families to keep their child(ren) home when they are sick and to report COVID-19 cases and / or symptoms as they normally would.

Please note that any families that wish to change their child's instructional model from in-person to virtual, or vice versa, as a result of this decision are free to do so. Please work with your building principals to arrange this if you so wish.

This school year has caused a lot of anxiety and uncertainty, and has produced many unique challenges. We expect this message will do the same for some of our students, families and staff as not everyone will agree with and may have mixed emotions about recommending masks rather than requiring them. We will continue to support those who need it and continue to ask for your support in return as we collectively work diligently to conclude this one-of-a-kind school year.

Sincerely,

Joe Garza, Superintendent