



# Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

On Wednesday, July 7, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) notified school districts that they may change their mask policies for summer school programming. Schools can now implement revised masking policies based on the previously released NYSDOH guidelines for daycare and summer camp programs.

In its communication to school districts, NYSDOH based this determination on the “current low rates of COVID-19 transmission.” Most recently, the Erie County Department of Health reported that only 76 new cases have been reported among Erie County residents (during the week ending July 3). This represents a case rate of 8.3 cases per 100,000 residents, which is considered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) to be a “low transmission” level. It is also important to note that the vast majority of pandemic-related restrictions have been lifted state-wide and Gov. Andrew Cuomo formally lifted the COVID-19 state of emergency, which has existed since March 7, 2020, on June 25.

Consistent with NYSDOH guidance, and after conferring with our legal counsel, the following mitigation strategies will be in place for our summer programs:

- Mask wearing is strongly encouraged, but not required.
- We will maximize physical distancing between students based on the number of children in each class and the size of the instructional space.
- Families should keep children at home if they are not feeling well or are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptom(s).
- Unvaccinated staff must continue to wear masks indoors.
- Face coverings must be worn during transportation by individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
- Thorough cleaning of all instructional spaces will continue to be completed daily.
- The daily health screening questionnaire will no longer be required.

It is important to note that **these changes are only in place for summer programs**, and the District’s policies are subject to change if the State again changes its requirements for schools.

We are awaiting information on what NYS requirements will be in place for the 2021-22 school year. As we have previously communicated, we are planning for a traditional 5-day instructional program, with full in-person attendance for all students, beginning in September. The NYSDOH has indicated that it will be releasing its guidance for the 2021-22 school year soon. Once the NYSDOH releases that guidance, we will assess its impact, and communicate to students, families and staff how we will proceed as a district.

To all of our students, families and staff, thank you for your continued cooperation and patience as we remain **Ken-Ton Proud, Ken-Ton Strong, and Ken-Ton Moving Forward!**

Sincerely,

Sabatino Cimato  
Superintendent of Schools

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*The Ken-Ton school community will provide our students with the supports, tools and diverse opportunities needed to meet the challenges of an ever changing world.*