



# VENANGO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TO: Venango Region Catholic School Families and Employees

FROM: President Laura Blake and Venango Region Catholic School Board of Directors

DATE: February 2, 2022

RE: COVID-19 Masking Policy

**This correspondence is to inform you of the following:**

On Tuesday, February 1, 2022, the Venango Region Catholic School Board of Directors voted (7 to 1) face coverings are no longer required for students and staff, effective Thursday, February 3, 2022.

This means:

- Mask-wearing will be optional at both campuses for students and staff.
- VRCS supports any student or staff member who chooses to wear or not wear a mask regardless of their vaccination status.
- Please note that this decision does not impact the federal directive requiring all passengers and drivers to wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems; these requirements remain in effect.

**Please note:**

- VRCS is still required to trace positive COVID-19 cases, notify close contacts, and require individuals to quarantine from school.
- If a student is unmasked and is deemed a close contact to an infected individual, they will be required to quarantine unless fully vaccinated. The infected student and the close contact both must be masked appropriately to prevent quarantines.
- Unmasking could result in numerous student quarantines and could prevent in-person learning.
- It is important to note that Venango Region Catholic School reserves the right to change this mask policy at any time during the 2021-22 school year. Local, state, or federal mandates could warrant a change, as could a significant increase in positive COVID-19 rates in specific schools or grade levels.

The Venango Region Catholic School Board of Directors will reevaluate the masking policy at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 1, 2021.