



Press Release: Tuesday December 21, 2021

Great Falls Public Schools has been monitoring the COVID-19 spread since school started. This information was shared with the District COVID-19 Advisory Panel today. Based on the analysis of the data regarding the lower infection rates in our schools and the recent overall downward trend in the community transmission rates over the past few weeks, the requirement for the use of facemasks in all schools across the District, including Elementary Schools, will be lifted beginning Monday, January 3, 2022. However, **the use of face masks will be highly recommended in elementary, middle and high schools**, especially in congested areas where physical distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be maintained for more than 15 minutes.

As we look to the new year, there continues to be concern expressed by our professional medical experts regarding COVID-19 variants and the relatively low percentage of school aged children who are fully vaccinated in Cascade County. Our goal is to keep schools open and teachers engaged with our students as much as possible. So, we will continue to monitor the community transmission rates and consult with Health Officials regularly.

Parents, staff and students are reminded to monitor your health and wellbeing each day. If you or your child are feeling sick and/or exhibiting any flu-like symptoms, please stay home and contact your health care provider. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your school administrator or the GFPS District Offices.