

# PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2829 CHURCH STREET • PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK 12567-5504

TEL: (518) 398-7181

FAX: (518) 398-6592

WWW.PPCSD.ORG

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to urge you to consider lifting mask mandates for pre-K to 12 schools. While there are only four weeks remaining in the school year, the universal wearing of face covering is causing increasing concern particularly as the weather turns warmer.

You have often stated that your actions are dictated by the science. There have been virtually no COVID infections in our schools. The infections of students and staff have occurred in the community, yet you have lifted the mask restrictions in the community and allowed them to remain in our schools.

Parents have expressed concern to me over their children's health due to the negative effects of face coverings particularly among our youngest students. I share their concern.

Once again, I urge you to review the directive that mandates students to wear masks at all times except for eating. Flexibility for schools to address this concern makes sense and would be very welcomed.

Sincerely,



Martin D. Handler, Ed.D  
Superintendent

MDH/pa

Cc: Assemblymember Didi Barrett  
Senator Sue Serrino  
Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro  
PPCSD Board of Education