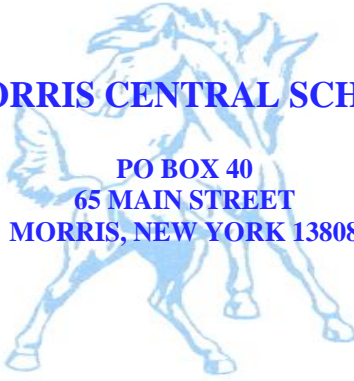


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Superintendent
KATHARINE SMITH
Principal
DONNA STANISTREET
Director of Pupil Personnel

30 August 2021

Dear Morris Families and Community Members:

In a memo released late Friday, Commissioner of Health, Howard Zucker, issued a mandate for universal masking in school regardless of vaccination status. **The regulation and Commissioner's determination have legal effect.** This state mandate means, **all persons** entering the building will be required to wear a mask or face covering.

The pertinent information from the Commissioner's determination reads:

3. P-12 school settings:
 - a. After careful review and consideration of CDC recommendations for face coverings/masks in school settings, I hereby adopt such recommendations, imposing them as requirements, where applicable, until this determination is modified or rescinded. Accordingly, universal masking of teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask and regardless of vaccination status, is required until this determination is modified or rescinded. Such requirement is subject to applicable CDC-recommended exceptions.

The Commissioner's publication may be accessed here:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/08/2.61_determination_0.pdf

The regulations regarding Face Coverings may be accessed here:

https://regs.health.ny.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/emergency_regulations/Face%20Coverings%20for%20COVID%2019%20Prevention.pdf

We are being told that additional meetings are scheduled in Albany today, so more information may be available to the wider public prior to our official opening. Thank you for your continued patience with this protracted process by the State of New York.

Although there are still some questions to be resolved, there is nothing in the DOH regulation adopted by the Health Commissioner to establish a requirement for six feet of spacing between individuals when eating, drinking, singing, or playing a musical instrument. We are able to maintain at least 3 ft. of distance in all indoors learning spaces, and most classrooms are able to maintain 6 ft. of social distance.

What we can all be assured is that MCS will open on September 7, 2021 for 5-days per week instruction, and students will be given mask breaks to the maximum extent feasible.

If you have any questions, please email reopening@morriscsd.org.

Regards,
Dr. Babbie