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March 3, 2022

Dear TEC Families, Guardians and Caregivers,

As you may know, as of February 28th, students and staff at public schools in Massachusetts are no longer required to wear face coverings while indoors. The [Commissioner's update](#) on masking recommends a "mask-friendly" K-12 learning environment and many districts have announced that masks are no longer required.

Beginning on Monday, March 7, 2022 TEC will move to a mask friendly environment in certain settings. Being *mask friendly* means we respect the individual choices of students and staff but acknowledges that our medically fragile students, and those who have personal or family health concerns/needs, must be supported.

We recognize that TEC's mask-friendly learning environment must be specific to our students' needs and will implement the following masking guidelines on Monday, March 7, 2022:

Masks will continue to be mandatory:

- Within 6 feet of students in the TEC Campus School classrooms (exceptions noted below)
- If an individual is symptomatic
- In the Health Office
- At specific program events and activities including our Culinary Program or community service experiences

Masks will be optional at:

- Phoenix Academy and TEC High School masks will be optional in classrooms but mandatory for specific activities
- TEC Campus School classrooms: Room 315 and Westwood High School classroom
- In TEC's Central Offices
- Masks are not required outside

We are creating the conditions to support a mask friendly learning environment but will continue to monitor health and safety conditions in order to prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families. TEC will continue to provide PPE, to do symptomatic COVID testing, and to encourage all students and staff to self-test for COVID on Wednesdays. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's principal or Nurse Kerry Kubera.

We have all worked hard to keep our students and staff safe during the past two years and want to thank you for your extraordinary support. As we begin to shed our masks, it will take time to regain our confidence and move past the anxiety COVID has created. Still, we are excited to begin to reestablish our regional learning community and remain hopeful for a healthy future!

Thank you!

