



March 2, 2022

Dear MeANS Community,

It's hard to believe two years have passed since we went remote due to the arrival of COVID-19. I appreciate your support as we have navigated the challenges it has presented. As a community we have been diligent in our masking efforts and other mitigation strategies, and I am proud of our students and their resilience.

With the recent changes in CDC guidance and the low number of infections in our school community, we have decided to make **masking optional beginning Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. We will continue to recommend masking for individuals who feel it is necessary, respectfully supporting the choices made by everyone.

We will also reinforce the need for basic hygiene such as

- Hand washing and/or sanitizing
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Maintaining cautious social distancing
- Self-screening and staying home when you are not feeling well

Additionally, we encourage your participation in our ongoing pool testing.

In the event of a positive infection, the recommended 5-day quarantine will remain in effect, followed by a 5-day period of masking within the building. Close contacts will also be asked to quarantine unless they are vaccinated or participate in pool testing.

I am excited to announce these changes and have already witnessed the positive effects of a return toward normal. If you have further questions, please contact our school nurse Jessica Mitchell, [jmitchell@gwh.org](mailto:jmitchell@gwh.org) or 509-0182.

Sincerely,

Matt Newberg  
Head of School

**MAINE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

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