June 6, 2021

Dear Cincy Families,

I hope you all read this while sitting outside as we are all due some much needed rest and relaxation out of doors!

New York’s Health Commissioner, Dr. Howard Zucker, sent a letter to the CDC that has caused quite a stir in New York State Schools. Somehow the media obtained a copy and released the message that students and staff would not be required to wear masks in school. That is just not true...yet. The following two paragraphs are from The New York State Education Department:

As of September 1, 2020, school districts were permitted to reopen, under Executive Order 202.60, “subject to adherence to Department of Health issued guidance and directives.” These have included the submission of reopening plans to address, among other things, distancing and health requirements.

SED has been in communication with Executive staff regarding the attached letter from Dr. Howard Zucker, New York State Commissioner of Health. According to conversations with Executive staff, the intent of this letter was to obtain a response from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding differing standards for summer camps and schools; it has not changed any existing arrangements. Therefore, schools should continue to operate under their existing procedures until further notice. No changes have been, or will be, made by the Executive until after Monday June 7 to afford the CDC an opportunity to respond to the letter.

The release of that letter on Friday caused confusion as we had not received any notification that this idea was being considered. If vaccination is key to building immunity, we still have many students aged 11 and younger that have not had any access to vaccines and I do believe that masks will remain important in school for the remainder of the school year.

I continue to appreciate the cooperation from our school community and please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Freeman

Cincinnatus Central – Striving to meet children’s needs, awaken their minds, and touch their hearts.