



Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov

December 2, 2021

Marjorie McBride, Chair, School Committee
Mt. Hope High School
199 Chestnut Street
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Ms. McBride:

It was brought to our attention that an event took place at Mt. Hope High School where people weren't in compliance with the State's masking mandate. We would like to remind you that Governor McKee's [Executive Order](#) and RIDOH's emergency regulations require public Pre K-12 schools to have a [universal indoor masking policy](#) in place for the 2021-2022 school year.

Messaging prior to events as well as public signage may be helpful reminders for constituents who are entering the K-12 facility off hours and may not be fully aware. We anticipate rising case counts of COVID-19 for the next few weeks which is concerning given the upcoming holidays and travel as well as gatherings with family and friends who may be more vulnerable to serious illness. We also know from the past year that indoor crowded places are where the virus is much more easily transmitted, thus masks protect both the wearer as well as those around them.

The following links may be of use to you as well in communicating with your families:

Universal Indoor Masking Protocol:

<https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidance/Universal-Indoor-Masking-Protocol.pdf>.

Rhode Island Masking FAQ:

https://health.ri.gov/publications/frequentlyaskedquestions/Rhode_Island_Masking_FAQ.pdf.

We appreciate your continued collaboration and ongoing efforts to keep our children in school.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Bornschein".

Suzanne Bornschein M.D.
Consulting Medical Director, Covid-19 Unit
Rhode Island Dept of Health
Suzanne.W.Bornschein.CTR@health.ri.gov

CC: Dr. Deborah DiBiase, Ana C. Riley



State of Rhode Island