May 19, 2021

Good evening Brooks community,

As I am sure some of you know, the CDC and Commonwealth of Massachusetts have moved fairly quickly in the direction of lifting some COVID-19 restrictions of late. While as recently as Monday of this week I indicated that we were planning to stay the course on requiring masks as we have all year, the growing volume of data (declining infection rates, growing vaccination levels, extremely low levels of outdoor transmission) makes clear that continuing to require masks outdoors is no longer necessary. Thus, we are going to make the following adjustments to our mask protocol, effective immediately:

1. We are no longer requiring that any community member (vaccinated or unvaccinated) wear a mask when outdoors. This will remain our policy through the end of the school year on June 6 unless there is a health and safety development that leads or requires us to change course.

2. Masks WILL continue to be required indoors and each of us will be responsible for having a mask with us at all times in order to comply with this expectation.

3. This change in policy includes athletics, outdoor afternoon programs, and all outdoor activity. We will be determining interscholastic sport mask protocols with each individual opponent for games scheduled this weekend and next weekend. These protocols will apply to spectators, as well.

4. For sake of clarity, the outdoors is defined as being outside of a permanent structure with at least two open sides for air circulation. All of our tents are outdoors.

5. We may either decide or be required to wear masks at some of the outdoor events remaining on this year's school calendar. We will provide updates as we move along.

6. The Prom: Masks will be required on the bus and at the event itself. They will not be required when we are on campus and outdoors taking pictures before departing for Boston.

I will say a bit more about this change in Chapel on Thursday. If you have questions, please let me know.

Best,

Mr. Packard