



February 25, 2022

Dear Worth Park District Residents and Families:

This announcement is to inform you that the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will lift Mitigation Order 2021-11 on Monday, February 28, 2022. The lifting of this order is in alignment with the state and the city of Chicago and indicates that great improvements have been seen and are continuing in key COVID-19 metrics such as confirmed cases and hospitalizations.

Lifting Mitigation Order 2021-11 will mean the following:

- Masks will no longer be required in all Park District buildings.
- Proof of vaccination for program and service participants covered by the Order will no longer be required.
- Proof of vaccination or weekly testing for employees covered by the Order will no longer be required.
- Masks will be required for all individuals who are transported in Park District vehicles (ie. RAS children, trip participants, etc.).

The last bullet point is very important, especially if you have a child who is transported to and from school. Please have your child bring a mask each day that he/she will be transported. This is a federal requirement for all means of public transportation. If this mandate is lifted, you will be notified of such. In addition, the current procedures for dropping off and picking up your children in the RAS and Preschool programs will remain in place for the rest of the school year. These procedures will be evaluated for possible revision starting in the Fall.

The Park District is pleased that we are moving away from the pandemic. As positive as this is, we do recognize that COVID-19 will be present in our lives for a long time to come. The Park District will continue to be vigilant and encourage the safe practices of social distancing, masking if necessary, and to follow any and all safe protocols. The Park District does reserve the right to implement its own protocols in regard to COVID-19.

Because the mandate will be lifted, does not mean you do not have a choice regarding masking/non-masking. If you feel that you or your child should continue wearing a mask, the Park District will support your decision. It will be expected of all employees and participants to be respectful of these decisions and be supportive and understanding for the overall safety of our community. Bullying or harassment regarding masking/non-masking will not be tolerated.

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As we have from the beginning of the pandemic, the Park District will continue to follow the guidance of the Illinois and Cook County Departments of Public Health, the CDC, PDRMA, and the Executive Orders from the state. Any updates and/or changes that may occur will be communicated to families and parents accordingly.

On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners and the management staff of the Park District, I want to thank all parents and families for your outstanding cooperation during this difficult time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (708) 448-7080 or roshaughnessy@worthparkdistrict.org.

Sincerely,

Robert M. O'Shaughnessy, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation