

ALBANY OFFICES
ROOM 909 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2070

ROOM 315 STATE CAPITOL
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247

ROBERT G. ORTT
62ND SENATE DISTRICT
SENATE MINORITY LEADER

DISTRICT OFFICE
175 WALNUT STREET
SUITE #6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680

E-MAIL
ORTT@NYSENATE.GOV

WEBSITE
ORTT.NYSENATE.GOV

June 3, 2021

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Under school guidance released by the New York State Department of Health in April 2021, schools across New York State are still required to mandate mask wearing for children and staff while on school grounds and in school facilities.

As touted by your office earlier this week, the number of new COVID cases in the state is at record lows, and restrictions, including mask mandates in many situations, are being lifted throughout the state.

We are heading into the summer months, and with temperatures expected to soar into the 90s throughout New York State next week, it's time to ease the mask mandate in our schools. At a minimum, you should empower local school districts to make these decisions in consultation with local health officials, parents and staff.

Many of our school buildings do not have air conditioning, so to require face coverings in dangerous temperatures will be detrimental not only to their physical health, but also to their ability to focus and learn. Under the current guidelines, even students and teachers who are outside on school grounds are still required to wear masks.

With low numbers and mask mandates for everyone easing throughout the state, I urge you to take action to ease the mask mandates for schools for the safety and comfort of our school aged children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robt G. Ort'.

CC: Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health