

## Marion Betts

---

**From:** Sharon Harkay <sharkay@thetfordvt.gov> on behalf of Sharon Harkay  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** Li Shen; Steve Tofel; Mary Bryant; David Goodrich; Marion Betts; Bryan Gazda  
**Subject:** TA's Latest Announcement on Masking (3/4/22)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Dear TA Community,

It has been an eventful week in the evolution of Covid guidelines in Vermont. This week's email shares important news on that front and other school updates.

### **TA Shifts to Mask Optional March 14**

Based on developments yesterday, most importantly the shift in Orange County's Covid status to a 'medium'/yellow rating, Thetford Academy will shift to making masks optional for our school community starting Monday, March 14. You can [link to our decision-making framework](#), first shared with you on Tuesday, to see information and links regarding the many changes that have occurred over the course of this week that contributed to our decision.

This is a significant milestone in our two-year journey through the pandemic and one that I know many students are looking forward to reaching. There are others in our school community who will want to continue using a mask daily for extra protection for themselves and/or loved ones, and that is welcome too. We will support all TA community members who want to wear masks in doing so, and we have a large supply of high-quality masks to distribute to staff and students in the health office. We are waiting until March 14 to move ahead with this change to give families time to make these decisions and plan ahead, and also because we will have a lot of indoor group activities happening throughout the week with Founders' Day. This date also aligns with the governor's timeline.