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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Portia Kirkland, 678-427-4898 Carla Parker, 404-734-1717

DeKalb County School District to Lift Mask Mandate on March 2

STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga. – DeKalb County School District (DCSD) announces that it will lift its mandatory mask requirement for all staff and students indoors and on buses. Effective March 2, mask-wearing will be strongly encouraged for all staff, students, and visitors.

DCSD is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff. The district reviews the COVID-19 case data and status reports for the school district and DeKalb County. In collaboration with the DCSD's Medical Advisory Committee, all information is utilized to make decisions on mask-wearing and other mitigation strategies. On Feb. 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its procedures to assist communities with monitoring the spread of COVID-19.

According to the CDC, the <u>COVID-19 Community Levels</u> tool helps communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels are classified as low, medium, or high and are determined by evaluating <u>specific indicators</u>. Currently, in DeKalb County, the community level is low.

Recommendations for this category include the following:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive, or are exposed to someone with COVID-19 should continue to follow all district-wide protocols and consistently and correctly wear masks to protect others as well as themselves.

DCSD will continue the following:

- Reporting positive COVID-19 cases and exposures utilizing the portal;
- Implementing mitigating strategies in all school and district facilities; and
- Offering surveillance testing in schools and central offices.

The district also reserves the right to update this information based on changes in the COVID-19 Community Levels and guidance. For more information on the district's COVID-19 health and safety protocols, visit www.dekalbschoolsga.org/covid-19-health-and-safety.