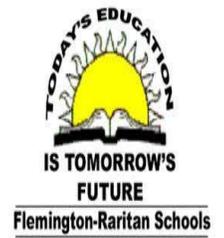


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
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February 15, 2022

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members,

On February 7 Governor Murphy shared information that the universal statewide mask mandate for schools and childcare settings will be lifted effective March 7, 2022. See previous communication [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#). Please keep reading all school and district communication so that you have accurate and timely information. Please be sure to check the District website at www.frsd.k12.nj.us and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/flemlrarschools and Twitter at www.twitter.com/FlemRarSchools for accurate information. The District will continue to update our community regularly as guidance is received.

The Board of Education approved the [Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan-- School Closure Preparedness Plan](#) on Monday night, February 14, 2022. Due to Board of Education approval, masks will not be required, but optional, in school beginning on March 7, 2022. Our District's [Road Forward Plan](#) has been revised to read that *"In alliance with Executive Orders if masks are not required by an Executive Order or State mandate, face coverings will not be barred by any individual as all individuals will have a choice to continue to wear a mask. Instances of bullying will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action."*

To be abundantly clear, the Executive Order currently remains in effect for facemasks to be required in schools until March 7. Students, staff, and faculty should continue to wear masks while indoors at school until March 7, 2022. Please note, March 7 is a Staff Development Day for staff. School is closed for students. The District will continue to abide by all Executive Orders, including mask mandates.

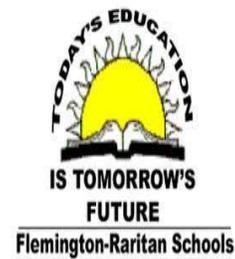
As of March 7, staff and students may choose whether to wear a mask or not once the mask mandate is lifted. Regardless of their choice, everyone will be treated with the dignity, respect, and care that all deserve whether selecting to wear a mask or not wear a mask. The District will ensure that the environment is conducive to learning and that everyone feels safe and respected at all times.

At this time, the [CDC requirement](#) for "persons to wear masks when traveling on any conveyance (e.g. airplanes, trains, subways, buses, taxis, ride-shares, ferries, ships, trolleys, and cable cars) into or within the United States" remains in effect. This means that until the mandate is amended, students must continue to wear a mask while riding the school bus. We expect the upcoming information released will assist schools to clarify the mandate of continuing to wear a mask while on a school bus. Until then, due to the federal mandate, students should continue to wear a mask while on the school bus. We understand how the Governor's announcement to lift the mask mandate but still require students to wear a mask on the school bus may seem contradictory. The District continues to relay concerns and strongly urge others for clarification. We expect guidance soon regarding federal transportation mandates.

Governor Murphy further indicated that he would be releasing information from the Department of Health to assist schools with regard to the lifting of the mask mandate. Regarding quarantine protocols and contact tracing, guidance from the State will be critical to understanding how contact tracing and quarantine will be handled, if at all. Until updated guidance is received, contact tracing and quarantine requirements following exposure and positive cases for COVID-19 remain in effect.

We wish our students and families a healthy and relaxing long weekend as school is closed for students on Friday, February 18, for a staff development day. Schools are also closed on Monday, February 21, for Presidents' Day.

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Sincerely,

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