

North Haledon Public Schools

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Dear Families and Community Stakeholders:

As all are aware, Governor Murphy has lifted the mask mandate in schools commencing tomorrow (March 7, 2022). The North Haledon School District will be MASK OPTIONAL for all students and staff. It goes without saying, but I will say it anyway, please respect the views and actions of all as we begin this new "Road Forward" for our district.

After communication with our BOE, local health officials, and our district wide health/administration team, we are planning to come as close to our pre-Covid days as possible. While we may be relaxing some measures and guidelines, we all need to remain mindful and cognizant as to our actions, which does include remaining home when feeling sick or showing signs/symptoms of any illness. Again, please honor this stance for our district as we do want to remain in school for instruction, as well as for our social-emotional wellness.

Carefully review the bullets below. Any questions or concerns, do reach me via email. Regardless as to what is listed below, do know we can pivot anytime whether CDC/NJDOH directives or local/region Covid activity level reports. Again, the "loosening" or relaxing of particular measures/precautions will not supersede our health and safety focus for all. Starting tomorrow, here are some highlights:

- Mask optional for students and staff (if worn, must be masks recommended by the CDC);
- Visitation (includes in-person BOE meetings, recreation events, PTO meetings, Facility usage gatherings, class parent activities, volunteer work, and the like) will be mask optional (Please remain home if not feeling well);
- Bus travel is mask optional;
- Quarantine period remains;
- When returning from quarantine period on Day-6, masks MUST be worn in school till Day-10 (removal may occur on Day-11);
- Maintain travel restrictions per CDC (see CDC website);
- Regardless of mask option, we do encourage masks being worn especially during gatherings such as assemblies, concerts, and the like;

- Sneeze guards are still optional;
- Social distancing to the maximum extent possible;
- High levels per local and/or state Cali report will dictate masks being worn by all (outbreak included);
- Test results will continue to be communicated to respective school nurse;
- Unvaccinated staff will continue to be tested once per week;
- Unmasked students who are vaccinated, but were in direct contact of someone who tested positive for Covid, may remain in school (will wear mask for 10-days);
- Unmasked students who are unvaccinated and in direct contact will be in quarantine protocol (will return to school Day-6 and wearing masks through Day-10);
- Masked and vaccinated, but in direct contact may remain in school;
- Masked and unvaccinated in direct contact will enter quarantine protocol;
- If someone in your home tests positive for Covid, but your child/children are not exhibiting signs/symptoms, vaccinated would return to school while unvaccinated should remain home as a precaution (Q-period). Remote learning would occur, but positive results from those who did test positive for Covid should be provided to respective school nurse (this action has been in place and will continue);
- PCR test is recommended (all results should be provided to respective school nurse); and
- Contact tracing will remain, but limited to an elementary classroom and lunch tables in both schools.

There are many variables we must keep in mind now that the mask mandate will be lifted come March 7, 2022. And yes, while all may be aware as to what other districts will have in place, the above measures (among others) are the best fit for our school district. Again, we could pivot at any time which would include masks being worn by all if the numbers dictate this response.

We will continue to update all, as well as continue our partnership with local health officials. Our BOE and school officials will continue to collaborate as we put forth the most effective educational and emotional plan for all keeping in mind health and safety. And as always, we will need the cooperation and partnership of home/families with regard to our new "Road Forward."

Be well,

Nicholas S. Coffaro

Superintendent of Schools