



July 2, 2021

Dear Warren Township Schools Community,

On Monday, June 28, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) issued [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#). This document replaces previous school district guidelines issued by Governor Murphy's executive orders and state agencies.

Tuesday morning, the district's Return to School subcommittee chairs reviewed the guidance and its implications for our Summer Fun and Extended School Year programs and the reopening of schools in September.

The NJDOE advises school district leaders to collaborate with local public health officials when making changes to health and safety policies and procedures. This process has been completed and I can now share the following adjustments:

- The NJDOH and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to recommend that all unvaccinated individuals, including children, wear masks while indoors and the Warren Township School District will continue to *recommend* this for unvaccinated employees and students.
- **Effective Tuesday, July 6, 2021, the individual mask *mandate* will be removed for students and staff in school facilities. The official recommendation is for unvaccinated individuals to continue to wear masks indoors, however, individuals are permitted to make this decision for themselves as per the new NJDOE/NJDOH guidance.**
- **Per order of the CDC, students and employees must continue wearing masks on school buses.**
- Parents of students attending a district summer program should discuss their expectations with their children for the wearing of a mask.
- COVID-19 is still a concern in our community. Should local public health conditions take a turn for the worse, the individual mask mandate may be reinstated at any time in consultation with our local public health official.
- The district will honor Summer Fun enrollment change requests based on this change. Please contact Summer Fun Principal Mrs. Meryl Lettore at [mlettire@warrentboe.org](mailto:mlettire@warrentboe.org) or call the Summer Fun office at 908-753-5300 x5470 for assistance.

The Road Forward states that the NJDOE/NJDOH may make changes to the masking expectations prior to the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to monitor these changes in consultation with our local public health official and update our plans as the next two months unfold.

The next updates regarding September 2021 planning will be shared at the July 19, 2021 Warren Township Board of Education meeting (available in person at Warren Middle School or streaming via the district website) and in community briefing emails on Thursday, July 8, 2021 and Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.  
Superintendent