



LACEY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Tradition Of Pride · A Tradition Of Excellence

VANESSA P. CLARK, PH.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 2, 2022

Dear Lacey Township School District Community:

I hope this communication finds you well and looking forward to the spring. I would like to share with you some changes that will be happening as it relates to our school and our continued COVID response. The goal of these changes is to allow us to return our school community to as much normalcy as possible for the remainder of the school year. Please keep in mind that all of the guidance in this communication is subject to change based on CDC and NJ Department of Health guidelines and mandates issued by the Governor.

As of March 7, 2022 Lacey Township School District will follow the following procedures:

- **Face Masks:**

Students and staff will not be required to wear face masks as of March 7, 2022. Individuals are free to wear face masks if they choose to do so after this date. Please be reminded that the entire school community must respect one's choice to wear or not to wear a mask. Any harassment will be investigated and not tolerated.

- **Close Contacts:**

Following our routine COVID protocols, parents will continue to be notified if the District becomes aware of a close contact; however, quarantines for close contacts **will be optional**. Parents will be given the choice to quarantine their child, but not required. Families who choose to quarantine will continue to be given the option of remote instruction for their children.

- **COVID-19 Screening:**

We will no longer screen students and staff for symptoms each day. Parents and staff must monitor themselves and their children for any of the symptoms of COVID-19, cold, flu, or other illness before they leave home. **Students must not be sent to school when sick and staff must not report to work when sick.** School nurses will continue to evaluate students and staff who present with symptoms of illness at school and contact parents should students need to be sent home.

- **Lunch:**

On March 7, 2022 our cafeterias will begin the transition to a normal seating configuration. The reduced number of COVID cases allows us to safely return to a normal lunch cycle and provides our students with the benefits of a normal lunch routine. Please note each building may not return to a normal lunch schedule immediately due to individual building schedules and needs.

- **COVID-Positive Individuals:**

Students and staff testing positive for COVID-19 will still be required to isolate and not attend school for 5 days after the date of symptom onset. Parents and staff must continue to notify their school nurses or main offices if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 so we can perform the required contact tracing and keep our schools and families safe. Household contacts of a positive individual will be excluded from school. The school nurse will determine the length of time for exclusion of household contacts based on individual circumstances. Remote learning will be made available for all isolated or excluded students.

- **Buses:**

Beginning March 7, 2022 masks will no longer be required on school buses, as per federal guidance. Parents should be aware the district is still required to contact trace any positive COVID cases and notify accordingly. Parents will be given the choice to quarantine their child, but not required. Families who choose to quarantine will continue to be given the option of remote instruction for their children.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's principal. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vanessa Pereira Clark
Superintendent of Schools