

RUNNEMEDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices * 24 N. Black Horse Pike - 2nd Floor * Runnemede, NJ 08078

Website: www.runnemedeschools.org

February 28, 2022

Dear Runnemede Families and Staff,

The intent of this letter is to inform and update the school community in regards to masking and updated protocols that will go into effect next week. Governor Murphy announced the mandate regarding mask-wearing will be lifted on March 7, 2022 and last week the CDC has updated their guidance for schools. Our district administrative team has attended meetings with the Department of Education, Department of Health, and consulted with our nurses and district physician. We continue to see a sharp decrease in the volume of COVID positive cases and symptomatic students and staff. However, we still want to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff as the year progresses. Your ongoing cooperation and support is appreciated.

Here are the revisions that will go into effect on Monday, March 7, 2022:

- Masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors within our schools and buses as of March 7, 2022.
- The district will modify our contact tracing and quarantine options.
 - When the district is aware of a COVID positive contact in the classroom, during lunch or activity, the entire class/table/activity/team will be notified via email from the school.
 - The choice to quarantine for those close contacts that are asymptomatic (no symptoms) will be up to the caregiver.
 - If your child is symptomatic, then they would have to quarantine as per the school nurse's determination (usually 5 days from exposure).
 - If your child is not fully vaccinated, it is recommended, not required, to have your child tested within 24 hours. It is recommended to test again after 48 hours.
 - After two negative tests over five days, no more testing is recommended.
- Students and staff with a COVID positive diagnosis will be excluded from school for either five days from the confirmation of the positive COVID test or five days from the onset of symptoms.
 - Masking is required when the confirmed student/staff member returns to school on days 6-10.
- Household contact quarantine protocols are still in effect at this time.
 - If a parent indicates that they can isolate at home, an asymptomatic child may return on Day 6 from the date of their exposure.
 - If an exposed close contact is unable to wear a mask during days 6-10 following exposure, they should quarantine at home for the full 10 days **OR** may return on day 8 with a negative test (collected day 5-7) as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- If a child/staff member is COVID positive or symptomatic, they continue to follow quarantine protocols.
 - Contact the school nurse to report a COVID positive test result or symptoms.

The district will continue to support individuals who choose to wear masks in our schools. All items are subject to reconsideration if there is a surge in cases. We thank everyone for their cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Iannucci