



# Rochelle Park School District

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February 18, 2022

Dear School Community,

At the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the matter of wearing masks was addressed. As you know, Governor Murphy announced that as of March 7, 2022 school districts will have a choice for implementing practices of wearing masks in response to COVID-19 health practices. Governor Murphy also noted that the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) will be releasing updated guidelines for schools. Those guidelines have yet to be released.

At this time we are preparing for the district to become a mask optional environment for all students, staff, and visitors starting March 7, 2022, contingent upon the NJDOH's forthcoming guidelines. Please note the following:

**Starting March 7, 2022:**

- ❖ Rochelle Park School District will be mask optional for all students, staff, and visitors.
- ❖ Anyone on a school bus must continue to wear a mask at all times, as required by federal transportation mandates.
- ❖ Any venue visited by members of the school community for a school sanctioned event (such as class trips, sporting events, etc.) must comply with the mask requirements of that venue.
- ❖ Quarantine practices currently in place for COVID-19 positive cases and primary contacts will remain in effect.
- ❖ All practices are subject to change upon receipt of updated NJDOH guidelines and State of New Jersey orders.

Please take this time to have family discussions, speak with and prepare your child(ren) for the mask wearing practice of your choice. Parents/Guardians who want their child(ren) to continue to wear a mask will need to communicate their expectations to them. School personnel will not be responsible for regulating mask wearing.

Continued monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms, keeping children home when not well, getting tested, and following quarantine guidelines all remain imperative practices. The school will continue to enforce these practices and we ask that parents/guardians remain compliant. Any

individual with COVID-19 symptoms at school will be sent home and required to follow school procedures, including quarantining if necessary.

Good hygiene and sanitary practices remain key for maintaining a healthy environment. Please continue to talk with your child(ren) about maintaining healthy practices such as hand washing, using sanitizer, covering one's cough and sneeze, keeping a healthy distance, not sharing beverage bottles, and the many other practices that are consistent with maintaining good health. Furthermore, conversations about respecting another person's choice are equally important. Anyone who may ridicule or harass another person for their choice will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Please continue to communicate with Mrs. Meyers, School Nurse, [smeyers@rochellepark.org](mailto:smeyers@rochellepark.org), for any change in your child's health and updates in vaccination status (all immunizations, not just COVID-19). Upon the receipt and review of the NJDOH guidelines, if any changes are made to the district's requirements and practices you will be notified. As always, your support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Sue DeNobile*, Superintendent