



Dr. Edythe B. Austermuhl
Superintendent

BERLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 3, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, Governor Murphy announced last month that he was lifting the Public Health Emergency as a result of the improved situation surrounding the COVID - 19 pandemic. With the lifting of his Executive Order, Governor Murphy has also stated that mask wearing will be optional in public schools beginning March 7, 2022. ***The Berlin Township School District will implement this mask optional environment in the school buildings, outside on school property, and on the school busses as per CDC and NJ Department of Health guidance and recommendations beginning Monday, March 7, 2022.*** Students and staff may choose to wear masks based on their individual health concerns and preferences.

The NJ Dept. of Health requires that public schools report all cases of COVID -19 and recommends that schools should work with the local county department of health to monitor infection levels in the local area. If the risk level (related to the infection rate) rises to the Orange (high) or Red (very high) levels, or if there is an outbreak in one of the classrooms or schools, ***mask wearing may be suggested for a short period of time.***

The district will continue to monitor COVID-19 infections of students and staff and assist the local Dept. of Health with contact tracing in order to identify close contacts. School nurses will continue to assist parents and guardians with isolation and quarantine requirements based on individual circumstances and vaccination status. Persons infected with COVID -19 will be required to isolate for 5 days at home and may return to school on days 6-10 wearing a mask to prevent possible spread.

Students will continue to be spread out 2-3 feet while in the classrooms and throughout the school, and to the greatest extent possible while on the school bus. Additionally, teachers will remind students to wash-in/wash-out when they enter and leave a room and to be careful sharing items.

For families who travel, please reach out to your school nurse to discuss the infection risk for the area you are visiting. ***At this time the travel related quarantine will be eliminated for the United States unless there is a surge in that area.*** If you are traveling outside the US, please check the risk level for that country, as quarantine and testing may be required upon your return.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience during this Pandemic. Your support of the school nurses, administration, teachers and support staff is greatly appreciated. Our priority continues to be to keep the children, your families, and our school family safe and healthy while providing educational experiences appropriate to the unique circumstances we have experienced together.

If you have any specific concerns, please reach out to the school nurses (Lisa Gillespie at JKF at 856-767-9480 ext. 1313 and Jennifer Hennessy at DDE at 856-767-9480 ext. 1213) or the building principals.

Stay safe and healthy!

Edythe B. Austermuhl, Ed. D.
Superintendent

“Educating Today for Tomorrow’s Success”