



MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT

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February 11, 2022

Dear Morris Hills Regional District Community,

On February 7, 2022, Governor Murphy announced that effective Monday, March 7, 2022, the Public Health Emergency that drives the school mask mandate in New Jersey will expire.

As a result, beginning on March 7, 2022, masks will no longer be mandated in the Morris Hills Regional District; rather, they will be optional for staff, students, and visitors. We all recognize that there are multiple perspectives regarding masking. Therefore, we ask our school community to once again show its solidarity and strength in respecting each other's perspectives, in supporting each other's emotional well-being, and in believing in each other's choices. Anyone who feels comfortable wearing a mask will be encouraged to wear one.

Please be advised that students and staff members will still be required to wear masks on all school buses in accordance with current federal regulations.

Governor Murphy announced that the Department of Health and the Department of Education will develop guidance that incorporates all aspects of safety in schools while students are unmasked. Once the district receives the updated guidance, we will update our protocols to align with masks being optional beginning March 7, 2022 and share that information with the school community.

We will continue to monitor our COVID-19 numbers and, if required, we will reassess our mask policy, working closely with our local health department officials.

In closing, we want to express our sincere gratitude to the parents, guardians, and students of our high schools for the spirit of cooperation that has defined this academic year thus far. Health mandates and protocols have required ongoing flexibility and open mindedness during a time in which we have all reached for safe environments in which to do our part. We would not be where we are today without the support of our parents, guardians, and students during a pandemic that has changed the world in many ways.

We thank our entire school community for its support and understanding in this decision. Please remain safe.

Sincerely,

The Morris Hills Regional District Administrative Team

"Excellence in Education"

mhrd.org

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