

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
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June 7, 2021

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents and Community Members,

Last week, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 242, lifting major COVID-19 restrictions but held firm about mask lifting, explicitly stating that schools are exempt from mask lifting. At the top of page 11, of the [Executive Order 242](#), *“Additionally, also per CDC guidance, child care centers and facilities, youth summer camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, are not affected by this announcement and continue to be governed by existing requirements.”*

Governor Murphy continues to mandate Executive Order 192 for schools requiring that “all individuals shall continue to wear face coverings in indoor workplaces.” This meant that all staff, students, and faculty are required to wear an appropriate face covering when entering our school buildings.

However, school leaders are now empowered to make decisions based on extreme heat. Today, Governor Murphy shared guidance through Twitter with school district leaders. Governor Murphy shared that school officials are empowered to relax masking among students and staff in their buildings given extreme weather conditions.

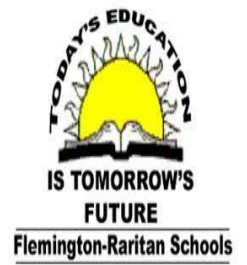


As the NJ COVID-19 website states, *“There are exceptions for face masks for children under two years old, when individuals need to briefly remove face coverings for religious reasons, and when wearing a mask would endanger one's health.”* The website also states, *“Note: Cloth face coverings are not recommended for children under 2 years, people who are incapacitated, people who have difficulty breathing, or any other person who cannot easily remove their own mask.”*

Faculty, staff, and students are advised, while in school, if breathing is difficult, due to being excessively hot, or any other reason where breathing is impaired, individuals may remove their masks. Keep in mind, based on [CDC guidance](#), unvaccinated individuals should continue wearing a face covering in public spaces, especially indoors, to protect themselves and others.

As the heat and humidity rise and the weather is forecasted to be 90 degrees tomorrow (June 8), 86 degrees on Wednesday (June 9), and almost 80 degrees on Thursday (June 10), masks are OPTIONAL for students, staff, and faculty in our non-air-conditioned buildings and spaces. While at any school, inside or outside, if breathing is difficult, due to being excessively hot, or any other reason where breathing is felt to be impaired, the mask may be removed.

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The weather is forecast to be cooler on Friday (June 11). While at school, even if in an air-conditioned space, if you have trouble breathing, due to being excessively hot, or any other reason where you feel your breathing is impaired, take your mask off in order to breathe while keeping in mind, based on [CDC guidance](#), unvaccinated individuals should continue wearing a face-covering in public spaces, especially indoors, to protect themselves and others.

I'll be in touch again this week about guidance with masks. Above all else, let's continue to be kind to one another, hopeful and optimistic.

Wishing you good health,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kari McGann".

Dr. Kari McGann
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