



## VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 99/625 Route 517, Vernon, NJ 07462

Phone: 973-764-2900 Fax: 973-764-0033 Web: [www.vtsd.com](http://www.vtsd.com)

**Karen D'Avino**  
Superintendent of  
Schools  
[kdavino@vtsd.com](mailto:kdavino@vtsd.com)

**Charles McKay, D.Litt.**  
Assistant  
Superintendent  
[cmckayl@vtsd.com](mailto:cmckayl@vtsd.com)

**Theresa E. Linskey**  
BA/Board  
Secretary  
[tlinskey@vtsd.com](mailto:tlinskey@vtsd.com)

May 24, 2021

Dear all Faculty, Staff, Students and Families of the Vernon Township School District,

While this year has been difficult to navigate for a multitude of reasons, the wearing of masks by all persons named above (faculty, staff, students, families) shall be as follows while on school grounds for the remainder of the school year, effective immediately (May 25, 2021):

1. Anytime a faculty member, staff member, or student is outside and socially distanced (by at least three feet), masks may be removed. This is inclusive of recess, walk/run, lunch, outdoor classes, and any other outdoor activity as well as fire drills, evacuation drills, fun/field day, etc.
2. Anytime a parent is on school grounds for the picking up and dropping off of students, and any other activity and is socially distanced (by at least three feet), masks may be removed.
3. Masks must continue to be worn while indoors and while on busses for the remainder of the school year.

The Governor's recent Executive Order (No. 241) states (in reference to mask removal):

"outdoor public spaces" **do not** include child care centers, other child care facilities, youth summer camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, which continue to be governed by Executive Orders No. 149, No.175, and No. 237, and any applicable standards issued by the Commissioner of the DOH.

However, in recent guidance from the Department of Health, received Friday, May 21 which states:

That Executive Order 175 **granted an exception for mask wearing in excessive heat**. This past week we experienced warmer than normal temperatures for May. The weather during the end of May and June can be unpredictable. In order to avoid other health issues such as heat exhaustion, dehydration, or other breathing hindrances which might be affected by wearing masks on hot days outside, and due to the significant reduction of COVID cases over the last few weeks, it is acceptable to remove masks while outdoors on school grounds until school concludes on June 18, 2021. However, all are encouraged to respect one another and should you be in the presence of someone who is uncomfortable, please create larger social distance or wear a mask.

We wish everyone a safe and successful end to a tumultuous school year as we look forward with hope to a more "normal" 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your continued patience, support, and flexibility. Have a safe, healthy, and restful summer.

Sincerely,

*Karen D'Avino*

*Charles McKay*

Karen D'Avino  
Superintendent of School

Charles McKay  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools