



VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Earlier this week, Governor Murphy indicated that the mask mandate currently at place in our schools will be lifted on March 7, 2022. The Vernon Township School District will be **making masks optional** on March 7, 2022. Please be reminded that **there is still a federal mask mandate for transportation** which means that all students riding school buses to/from school, athletic events, etc. will need to continue wearing masks until that mandate is rescinded or modified.

The Vernon Township School District encourages the respectful acknowledgement of optional mask wearing and personal choice. There are many reasons why staff or students may choose to wear masks and it is essential that the wearing of masks by anyone who feels they would like to for the protection of themselves or others, is permitted to do so without negative comment. Likewise those who feel comfortable unmasking under the "mask optional" protocol that will go into effect on March 7, 2022 may do so.

The Vernon Township School District continues to follow the guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health and the Sussex County Department of Health. **We are currently awaiting further guidance.** Please note that the NJDOH may add other layers of mitigation for our schools. If that is to occur, you will be notified as soon as we are able to provide that information for you.

I would like to thank you for your continued patience and I look forward to seeing the smiling faces of staff and students (of those who are comfortable unmasking) on March 7, 2022.

Sincerely,

Karen D'Avino

Karen D'Avino
Superintendent of Schools