



February 24, 2022

Dear Farmingdale Families,

Governor Murphy recently announced that as of March 7, 2022, masks will no longer be mandated inside of school buildings by students, staff, or visitors.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, we have consistently followed the requirements of the Governor along with recommendations from the NJDOH, the CDC, and our local health department when making decisions related to our response to COVID-19. Based on the Governor's decision and our consistent and sharp decline of COVID-19 cases in our school community, ***Farmingdale School District will become "mask optional" as of March 7, 2022.*** It will be up to individual families and staff members as to whether or not they choose to wear a mask at school. Please keep in mind that should community cases increase or the direction from the Governor and/or the NJDOH change, the district reserves the right to amend its protocols accordingly.

In addition, ***effective Thursday, February 24, 2022, quarantining for close contacts of a COVID-positive individual within the school building will become voluntary.*** Due to the sharp and steady decline of positive cases in the district, we will no longer automatically exclude in-school close contacts. Our intent is to keep students where they belong - learning inside our school. If your child is identified as an in-school close contact, Mrs. Kokolus will contact you and go over your quarantine options. Parents can make this voluntary decision. **However, symptomatic individuals, household close contacts, and those who test positive for COVID-19 will still be required to follow appropriate exclusion criteria.** As per updated guidance from the NJDOH (2/22/22), COVID-positive students and staff who return to school during days 6-10 following a 5 day isolation will be required to wear a mask through the 10th day, including during outdoor physical activities.

We will continue to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment through proper hand hygiene, increased cleaning protocols, physical distancing, and symptom monitoring. Please continue to monitor for illness at home and if your child becomes ill, please keep him or her at home.

Please remember some families and staff will choose to remain masked and we will fully support them in that decision. We ask that you partner with us to respect each other's choices.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your support as we have continued to navigate this pandemic together. These last two years have shown how truly special and resilient the Farmingdale School community is.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Edith Conroy