

BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

580 Erial Road, Blackwood, New Jersey 08012-4550
(856) 227-4106 • Fax (856) 227-6835

www.bhprsd.org

Where inspiring excellence is our standard and student achievement is the result

Dr. Brian Repici
Superintendent

Frank Rizzo
Board Secretary, Business Administrator

Julie A. Scully
Assistant Superintendent

Matthew Szuchy
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

March 1, 2022 Safe Return to School Committee Frequently Asked Questions

Governor Murphy announced that the Executive Order dictating mask-wearing will sunset on March 7, 2022. As a result, we are awaiting guidance from the Departments of Education and Health. In an effort to plan for our District, we have collaborated on the following questions and scenarios:

It is important to note, that the State Department of Health has made this mask determination based on health-related data. Those data indicate, and it has been corroborated by our own school nurses and District physician, that New Jersey and Camden County has reached their lowest levels of COVID-19 transmission. Communicable disease experts and epidemiologists have determined that COVID-19 transmissibility has slowed dramatically over the past two weeks and expect those levels to continue to drop. Hospitals and healthcare facilities better understand how to treat COVID-19, vaccinations are readily available, testing is accessible, and masks, like N-95, are good enough to protect yourself from transmissibility.

1. Will students and staff have to wear masks on the school bus? ~~YES, the Federal CDC order remains in effect.~~ **Update: As of Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC ended the mask mandate on school buses and is making masking on school buses optional. Therefore, in coordination with our bus services, mask-wearing on buses is optional starting on March 7, 2022.**
2. Will students and staff have to wear masks while in school? **Masks will be optional for students and staff members starting on Monday, March 7, 2022.**
3. If we decide to allow mask wearing to be optional, what date shall our decision start? **Monday, March 7, 2022, masks will be optional in school. Masks must be worn on school buses as per Federal guidelines.**

TRITON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 250 Schubert Avenue Runnemede, NJ 08078-1796 (856) 939-4500 • Fax (856) 939-4724 Mrs. Melissa Sheppard, Principal	HIGHLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 450 Erial Road Blackwood, NJ 08012-4599 (856) 227-4100 • Fax (856) 227-3619 Mr. Ryan Varga, Principal	TIMBER CREEK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 501 Jarvis Road Erial, NJ 08081-2169 (856) 232-9703 • Fax (856) 232-5267 Mrs. Kelly McKenzie, Principal
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4. Who will send out communication regarding any changes in District guidance? **Dr. Repici's office, School Principals will back up communication.**
5. If a student returns from a quarantine period following a COVID-19 positive determination, must they wear a mask on days 6-10? **No, unless the caregiver or student decides to do so.**
6. If students arrive at school and are symptomatic, does that change our mask wearing demands (i.e. student is sneezing, has a cough)? **We will continue to follow isolation protocols (student sent to nurse for examination and placed into a separate healthcare room. While waiting, the student may be asked to wear a mask.)**

GUIDING QUESTION TO MOVE FORWARD: What number or percentage of asymptomatic contacts ever develop symptoms? The school nurses cannot point to more than one or two causal transmissions from a classroom environment over the past two years.

7. Will school nurses continue to do contact tracing and give options to quarantine? OR, not doing contact tracing, but still, doing reporting to DOH? **The school nurses will continue to contact trace for close contacts, however, the choice to quarantine for those that are asymptomatic (no symptoms) will be the caregivers/students. If the**

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student is symptomatic, then they would have to quarantine as per the school nurse's determination (usually 5 days from exposure).

Scenario: Bob sits next to Suzie in class. Suzie reports that she is now COVID-19 positive and that Bob may have been exposed to possible transmission. The school nurse will notify Bob and his caregiver. Bob does not have any symptoms. Bob or his caregiver will make the choice to quarantine/isolate or not. Again, quarantining/isolating **MUST occur if Bob was symptomatic.**

Household contacts – if the parent indicates they can isolate in the home, student is asymptomatic, then we treat that the same as the contact in school – no quarantine period, unless the caregiver or student choose to quarantine/isolate. The asymptomatic individual as a household contact would have to quarantine if they cannot isolate in the home.

8. Will parents/students/staff be expected to inform COVID positive test results, household contacts, or close contacts to school nurse? **YES**

9. Will spectators/attendees have to continue to mask during indoor athletic/school events? **No, masking at all events will be optional.**

10. Will students have to wear them when entering the nursing office? **Not necessarily, but the school nurse may ask students to wear a mask.**

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- 11. If a child is COVID positive or symptomatic, they would still follow quarantine protocols. Contact the school nurse to report a COVID positive test result or symptoms.**

- 12. We will not require students to wear a mask from days 6-10 following a COVID-19 positive determination after the quarantine/isolation period ends. Mask wearing will be optional.**

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