

Fair Lawn Public Schools

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Nicholas J. Norcia
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Fair Lawn Community:

Governor Murphy has provided an update on changes to school health guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year in order to promote full time, in-person learning. The NJDOE and NJDOH issued such guidance in [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#). The most significant changes in this document pertain to the return of full time, in-person learning, physical distancing, and the use of masks/face coverings.

- Full time, in-person learning shall resume for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Social Distancing: As per NJDOE and NJDOH guidance, the district “will maintain physical distancing between individuals to the maximum extent practicable.” Physical distancing recommendations must not prevent a local district from offering full time, in-person learning, however, the district will also utilize other measures, such as outdoor seating and spacing and flexible scheduling, in order to provide a practicable distancing level.
- Masks/Face Coverings: As per NJDOE and NJDOH guidance, local districts may determine the use of masks in schools.

In a recent survey sent in May to parents/guardians and school staff regarding the safe reopening of schools, below is a summary of the information that was obtained. I have also attached the complete results of the survey for you to review.

	<u>Parents/Guardians Responses - Yes</u>	<u>Parents/Guardians Responses - No</u>	<u>Staff Responses Yes</u>	<u>Staff Responses No</u>
I prefer the continued use of face coverings by staff in schools	46%	54%	32.7%	67.3%
I prefer the continued use of face coverings by students in the schools	42.8%	57.2%	44.9%	55.1%

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Based on the survey results shown in the chart and information from the Fair Lawn Board of Health regarding local vaccination rates and COVID-19 activity levels, *the wearing of masks/face coverings will be optional for the 2021-2022 school year for staff and students.*

While we are pleased to be moving in a positive direction within the nation's pandemic status, we are realistic to the possibility of changes to local, state, and national health data. If data changes, we may need to adjust "masking optional" and levels of social distancing within our schools. We should be prepared to be flexible as a community on such policies in these ever-changing times.

Finally, as per the Governor's Office, these changes are only applicable to the 2021-2022 school year. Therefore, the district will continue to adhere to existing protocols and social distancing mandates for all summer programs on school premises. If this changes, we will notify you accordingly.

We will be updating you throughout the summer regarding updates to the COVID protocols, such as screenings, travel quarantines, etc. Thank you for your continued partnership as we plan the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Nicholas J. Norcia
Superintendent of Schools

Attachment

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Results from Safe Reopening Survey

Question	Parent Responses		Staff Responses	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
I prefer the continued use of face coverings by staff in the schools.	46%	54%	32.7%	67.3%
I prefer the continued use of face coverings by students in the schools.	42.8%	57.2%	44.9%	55.1%
I prefer social distancing guidelines (3 feet minimum) remain in effect in the schools.	55.5%	44.5%	51.1%	48.9%
I prefer to continue with daily staff health screenings.	63.4%	36.6%	34.7%	65.3%
I prefer to continue with daily student health screenings.	59.1%	40.9%	61.4%	38.6%

Parent Responses

Question	1 Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5 Extremely concerned
How concerned are you about your students' academic progress?	9.6%	11.7%	18.1%	18.1%	42.6%
How concerned are you about your students' social/emotional well-being?	9.4%	10%	16.6%	19.2%	44.7%
How concerned are you about your students' transition back to in-person learning?	35.1%	14.2%	19.4%	10.2%	21%

Staff Responses

Question	1 Not at all concerned	2	3	4	5 Extremely concerned
How concerned are you about your students' academic progress?	2.8%	8.2%	32.1%	31%	25.9%
How concerned are you about your students' social/emotional well-being?	2.6%	5.1%	20.7%	31.3%	40.3%
How concerned are you about your students' transition back to in-person learning?	12.5%	9.4%	26.1%	26.1%	25.9%