



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

June 8, 2021

Dear Members of the Holmdel school community:

The goal of the Holmdel School District throughout this pandemic has been to do everything we can to bring “normalcy” back to our school environment. Just like with our decision in December to provide full-time, in-person instruction to our students, we are working with our legal and medical professionals to carefully review the constantly shifting CDC and NJDOH guidelines. The most recent guidance from state and health officials continues to revolve around masks.

As you know, we have long removed the requirement of masks for outdoor activities. The Governor still maintains that the mask mandate applies to indoor school spaces but, as a result of his remarks yesterday, he has indicated that there are circumstances, such as extreme heat conditions, where the use of masks indoors is optional for strenuous activities such as indoor field day activities.

As a consequence, I am writing a letter to the Governor to ask him to permit these decisions to be made by individual school districts. This cannot continue to be a one-size-fits-all approach.

Here in Holmdel, we made a tremendous financial investment to make our environment safe for students and staff alike during the pandemic. We have seen the success of those investments: in the last six weeks, we have had just one case of COVID. Districts like Holmdel should be permitted to make these decisions based upon their actions to mitigate the risks associated with the spread of COVID. I will therefore be writing to the Governor to ask him to relieve Holmdel from the mask mandate in light of all the investments made in our District to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases.

I will also present this issue to the District’s Union Leadership and the Board of Education at its upcoming committee meetings to obtain their feedback in the event that the Governor releases us from the strictures of his ever-changing orders.