



Karen Homiek
Superintendent
KHomiek@mail.ocvts.org

March 4, 2022

Dear Staff, Parents and Students,

As discussed in my prior letter, the statewide school mask mandate will be lifted. Our district supports this decision as there have been a decline in cases, transmission rates, hospitalizations as well as an increase in vaccination rates. Although the mandate for masking will expire on March 7th, there are certain circumstances where masking still needs to occur.

- After returning from isolation or quarantine
 - Students and staff who return to school during days 6-10 of isolation or quarantine are required to wear a mask.
 - If an individual is unable to wear a mask during days 6-10, they should remain home for the full 10 days.
- When illness occurs in school, students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, while in school, should wear a mask until they leave the premises.

On March 7, 2022 you will not be required to wear a mask on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs.

Additional circumstances where mask wearing should be considered:

- Students or staff who are immunocompromised or live with persons at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness should be encouraged to mask.
- Students or staff who, for whatever reason, are concerned about disease transmission should be encouraged to mask.

Contact Tracing

- Recommendations for contact tracing in schools have not changed.
- School staff should continue to identify school-based contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in their school.

As always, we will continue to follow the CDC and the Ocean County Health Department's guidance.

Once again, I want to stress the importance of respect and sensitivity to those that prefer to wear masks in our buildings. I will continue to keep you informed as more information is provided by the Department of Health and the Department of Education. Please continue to stay well and God Bless.

Please continue to stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Homiek".

Karen L. Homiek, Superintendent



Board of Education/Administration Office
137 Bey Lea Road • Toms River, NJ 08753

Karen Homiek
Superintendent
KHomiek@mail.ocvts.org

February 23, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,

I hope this letter finds you well. On February 7, 2022, Governor Murphy announced that the statewide school mask mandate will be lifted on March 7, 2022. There has been a decline in cases, transmission rates, hospitalizations and an increase in vaccination rates which are indicators that we are moving in the right direction in the combat of COVID. The Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS) Board of Education agrees with Governor Murphy that the elimination of the mask mandate is bringing us back to normalcy in our classrooms. OCVTS will allow for parent/guardian/student choice when the mandate officially expires on March 7, 2022.

Our current school guidance for masks is still in effect and all students and staff are expected to follow the mask mandate until March 7, 2022. Our district has experienced a steady decrease in the number of positive COVID-19 cases since the beginning/middle of January. This is reflected in our messages sent home via emails since the onset of COVID. The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) will provide guidance on safety measures to be taken in our classrooms/buildings for the continuum of health and safety practices. We have followed their guidance throughout the pandemic and feel that these daily procedures have been successful in keeping our staff and students healthy.

We kindly request that our entire school community be sensitive and respectful to everyone's individual choice to wear a mask or to opt to not wear one. Any instances of harassment, intimidation or bullying that may arise due to an individual's choice, will be fully investigated and subject to disciplinary action. As new information becomes available, I will continue to update the community.

Please continue to stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Homiek".

Karen L. Homiek, Superintendent