



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School Community,

Earlier in the week, Governor Murphy announced that masks and facial coverings will no longer be mandated for students, staff, or visitors in schools effective March 7th, 2022. **Whether or not to require masks after March 7th will instead be a local decision by each district.** Since this announcement, I have been inundated with emails from community members on both sides of this issue, and I cannot respond to each individual email. This week, no decision will be made about what to do after March 7th, and we will be deliberate, thoughtful, and data-driven while considering all viable options. Over the next several weeks, we will be contemplating district requirements and non-requirements for after March 7th.

Part of the reason I am writing this email is that our community seems to be incredibly divided over this topic. The current situation requires us to consider different points of view respectfully. **Learning to interact with others who may have a different opinion than ours while remaining respectful and tolerant is a skill that needs to be developed among all students.** As adults, we should acknowledge that **this pandemic is providing us with an opportunity to accept this challenge and model it for our children and students should we choose to accept it.**

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding on this matter while we complete the necessary steps to make the best decision possible for our school district. I recognize that this is an emotionally charged topic. I appreciate all of the emails that I have received because they demonstrate two things: (1) love for your children and (2) a genuine interest in being involved in your child's education. I am always grateful for your continued partnership and support and hope that you have a great day.

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent