

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Dr. Kari McGann Superintendent of Schools 50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300 Phone: (908) 284-7561 Fax: (908) 284-7656

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May 28, 2021

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members,

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District pays tribute to all who have served, and are currently serving, in the military this Memorial Day. Schools will be closed for all students, staff, and faculty on Monday, May 31, in recognition of Memorial Day.

Governor Murphy's Executive Orders Continued:

The governor has not yet shared if masks will be required in September. On Tuesday, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 242, lifting major COVID-19 restrictions and moving forward with the state's most significant reopening steps to date. Effective on Friday, May 28, the indoor mask mandate in public spaces will be lifted, as well as the six-foot social distancing requirement in both indoor and outdoor spaces, the prohibition on dance floors at bars and restaurants, and the prohibition on ordering and eating/drinking while standing at bars and restaurants. Additionally, effective Friday, June 4, indoor gathering and capacity limits will be lifted.

However, the Governor's notice about mask lifting explicitly stated that schools are exempt from the mask lifting. At the top of page 11, of the Executive Order 242, you'll find the paragraph below.

Additionally, also per CDC guidance, child care centers and facilities, youth summer camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, are not affected by this announcement and continue to be governed by existing requirements.

Governor Murphy continues to mandate Executive Order 192 for schools requiring that "all individuals shall continue to wear face coverings in indoor workplaces." This means that all staff, students, and faculty will be required to wear an appropriate face covering when entering our school buildings. In September, if masks continue to be required, the District will have masks available for staff, faculty, and students. We still have a quantity in supply and students, staff, and faculty typically supply their own, however, we will need to have supplies on hand, as required IF masks are still mandated.

On Thursday, May 27, we were notified from the Executive County Superintendent's Office through the Governor's Office the following information:

"No more requirements for social distancing as of Friday [May 28], indoor or out, and no indoor gathering limits as of June 4. This would apply to graduation and other end-of-year ceremonies. Furthermore, there is no mask requirement for graduation or end-of-year ceremonies. **Masks are required for indoor ceremonies**.

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is applying for funding through the American Rescue Plan thanks to a pandemic relief package. The American Rescue Plan provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to states and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. Thank you to the 448 community members that responded to the survey. All comments and responses have been reviewed by our entire administrative team. Thank you for participating. I will share survey results at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

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Last week's letter incorrectly linked the study by the <u>McKinsey & Company Foundation</u>¹ which reported that the learning loss is especially high for students of color, who were about three to five months behind at the beginning of school last fall, compared to three months for white students. The link above is corrected.

COVID-19 Update:

Our Central West region continues to improve. Each week, the Department of Health provides information on the COVID-19 transmission at the regional level published through the CALI report. This week's COVID-19 report shows our Central West region remains in the "yellow." Two indicators; Case Rate and Percent Positivity rates decreased with the Percent CLI rate increasing slightly. The Southeast region of our state is in the "green." The Southeast region includes Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland counties. The state's COVID-19 Activity Level Index Weekly Reports are all linked here. This week's activity level report is here.

The District received notice of two new positive COVID-19 cases of students. One J.P. Case Middle School student was last in the building on May 21 and one Barley Sheaf School student was last in the building on May 17. A current count of reported COVID-19 cases is posted on the <u>District website</u>. To find the current count of reported COVID-19 cases visit the district homepage and click on the headline that reads Current COVID-19 count. The chart is updated by the end of each day in which a case is reported to the Superintendent.

Pfizer COVID Vaccine Clinic:

The information below is provided by Kathleen A. Seelig, MA, Corporate Director of Public Relations and Marketing at the Hunterdon Medical Center:

Sleeves up for summer! Summer is right around the corner and many of the summer activities we missed last year are coming back. Outdoor entertainment, sporting events, summer camps, and group vacations are just some of the summertime activities starting to populate family calendars, so take the opportunity now to get your COVID-19 vaccine and enjoy the summer knowing you and your loved ones are vaccinated.

We are hosting a Pfizer vaccination clinic on June 9, 2021, at Hunterdon Medical Center. Late afternoon appointments will be available to all individuals 12 years and older who live, work, or go to school in the State of New Jersey. Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. If you would like to schedule an appointment you can do so online or by phone.

- To schedule an appointment online, click on the Online Appointment Scheduling box below and you
 will be redirected to our online appointment scheduling service. Once there, you will see the details of
 the clinic and the available times from which you can select an appointment. <u>Click here.</u>
- To schedule by phone, the Vaccination Scheduling Call Center can be reached at (908) 237-4238 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our representatives will be happy to help you schedule an appointment.

On the day of your appointment please follow our Hunterdon Heart signs lining the road on the left side of Hunterdon Medical Center, leading to the rear of the hospital. When you approach the rear of the building you

https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/mckinsey/industries/public%20and%20social%20sector/our%20insights/covid%2019%2 0and%20learning%20loss%20disparities%20grow%20and%20students%20need%20help/covid-19-and-learning-lossdisparities-grow-and-students-need-help-v3.pdf?shouldIndex=false

² https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_19_Report_Week_2021_19.pdf

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will be greeted by an attendant who will show you where to park and also provide you with the necessary vaccine paperwork to complete before you enter the hospital. We look forward to seeing you on June 9th!

Wishing you good health and a relaxing Memorial Day weekend,

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Dr. Kari McGann

Superintendent of Schools