



# TEANECK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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March 2, 2022

Hello TCCS Community,

As you may already be aware, next Monday, March 7 is the date that Governor Murphy's universal school masking mandate is being lifted.

Per guidance received by the NJDOE, NJDOH, and after consultation with the Teaneck Health Department, I am writing today to let you know that effective next Monday, indoor and outdoor masking will be OPTIONAL for all individuals at TCCS. This is a major step towards a return to normalcy, and consistent with other health and safety decisions that have been made to this point, where we have trusted the guidance provided by our health officials. In the words of the Teaneck Health Department, "The CALI score is now green/low and we are averaging 1-5 cases per day, sometimes no cases, in Teaneck. We have come a long way!"

While masking will generally be optional for staff and students, we will continue to require masking in the following instances:

- For anyone returning to school during days 6-10 of isolation or quarantine, per NJDOH recommendations
- For students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school, per NJDOH recommendations

Additionally, should CALI scores once again rise to the high (orange) or very high (red) levels, we will reinstate a universal masking policy, unless otherwise directed by local health officials.

Barring any new guidance, we will continue to follow the recommendations from the [NJDOH: COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#) and regular Covid testing will still be occurring on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Additionally, all other existing TCCS protocols regarding contact tracing and quarantine / isolation will still apply when dealing with any positive cases that occur in the school.

TCCS recognizes that masking decisions are individualized and based on each staff member and family's specific situation; and we will certainly honor and respect those decisions. If you would specifically like for your student to continue to wear a mask in school, we ask that you please let us know by completing a brief online form, which is available at <https://bit.ly/tccs-psmr-22>. This information will be shared with the staff prior to next Monday. We will do our best to reinforce and encourage those students to follow their parents' wishes, but please understand that students will not face disciplinary measures for failure to wear a mask. However, parents will be notified in these instances, so that they can discuss with their students at home. If you would like to leave the decision up to your student, there is no need to complete the form.

As the Governor detailed in his recent announcement, schools are expected to take disciplinary action in instances of harassment or bullying if an individual chooses to wear a mask. Accordingly, TCCS will reinforce and support the right of any individual to wear a mask and will be reminding students of this through a series of brief small grade-level assemblies this Friday. As always, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying of any kind (including “mask-shaming”, etc.) will not be tolerated.

While this development is a very positive step in the right direction when it comes to restoring normalcy for our staff and students, I must remind you that the continued use of appropriate decision making in regards to health issues is still needed. If your student does not feel well and/or is experiencing symptoms listed in the Covid-19 screening attestation agreement (<https://bit.ly/tccs-ca-mar22>) without an alternative diagnosis or negative Covid test, please keep them home. In addition, if you have not yet gotten your student vaccinated or boosted (if eligible), you are encouraged to do so. In the case of any future positive cases in school, vaccination status will still be factored into contact tracing and quarantining rules.

Please email me at [rgallo@tccsnj.org](mailto:rgallo@tccsnj.org) if you have any questions regarding this new change to our masking rule. Otherwise, your cooperation is greatly appreciated and we look forward to even more “normal” days ahead, as we get through the few remaining weeks of winter and begin to approach the spring!

Thanks and Best Regards,



Ralph Gallo

Lead Person / Director