



Lakewood Board of Education

200 Ramsey Avenue, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Main Office: (732) 364-2400 Fax: (732) 905-3687

Laura A. Winters, Superintendent of Schools

June 9, 2021

Re: Masking Requirement

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On June 7, 2021, Governor Murphy announced that school officials may relax masking requirements during times of ***extreme*** heat.

According to the New Jersey Department of Health:

“Masking protocols outlined in Executive Order #175, which are aligned with current CDC recommendations, remain in place. **The order includes an exception to masking requirements outdoors during periods of extreme heat.** Additionally, the Order includes an exception to masking protocols in situations where masking would inhibit an individual’s health.

Please be advised that the Governor has clarified that this indoor masking exception could reasonably be applied to situations in which a district determines, at its discretion and based on its assessment of the individual circumstances, that a period of extreme heat warrants students and staff to remove their masks while indoors to protect individual health. As always, ***unvaccinated individuals*** are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks while participating in activities that include sustained contact with others or when in a crowded setting.”

For the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, masks will be ***optional*** for students and staff **outdoors** and on **school buses** during periods of ***extreme heat***.

Masks are **mandatory** in all school buildings for students and staff, as all Lakewood School District buildings are air- conditioned, with the exception of Piner Elementary School. All students, staff and visitors **must enter every Lakewood School District building wearing a mask.**

On days of ***extreme heat***, Piner Elementary School students and staff will be permitted to relax the mask requirements indoors. ***Unvaccinated staff members*** are strongly encouraged to continue to wear their masks. An announcement will be made by the building Principal allowing students and staff to relax the masking requirement for the day. Extreme heat days will be determined by the Superintendent in coordination with the building Principal.



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If your child attends Piner Elementary School, and you do not want him/her to remove his/her mask indoors during times of extreme heat, please notify your child's teacher immediately.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (732) 905-3633.

Respectfully,

Laura A. Winters

Laura A. Winters
Superintendent of Schools

c: Kevin Campbell, Assistant Business Administrator
Dave Shafter, State Monitor
Charles Muller, Ocean County Superintendent of Schools
Ron Fisher, Assistant State Monitor
Lakewood Police Department
Ocean County Health Department
New Jersey Department of Health
New Jersey Department of Education
Members of the Board of Education
General Counsel Michael I. Inzelbuch, Esquire