

Dr. Frank Ranelli
Superintendent of Schools

August 18, 2022

Dear Piscataway Families,

I sincerely hope you are all finding time to relax and enjoy your families and friends as the summer winds down. We are very excited to begin our new school year in just a few short weeks. Our administrative staff has been planning all summer for the return of our students for what we hope is a successful and enjoyable school year.

As we prepare for September, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is continuing to ease COVID-19 restrictions, and the State of New Jersey is making similar adjustments. You will receive individual school opening information from your child's principal next week. Today's information from me outlines guidelines that will impact the entire district. Please note the district protocols below can be adjusted at any time to align with appropriate safety measures and State of New Jersey guidelines.

Many of the COVID-19 and health protocols will be similar to how we ended last school year in June. You can visit the [2022-23 Learning Information page](#) on our website to get specific information. This is accessible on the District website and all school websites through the first "Quick Link" tab on the lefthand side of the homepage.

I have outlined some notable protocols below.

- Student mask wearing is optional at all times, including on school buses.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 7 days from the onset of symptoms. They can return to school on Day 8 without the need to wear a mask. No doctor's note is needed to return to school.
- Students who have a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis with a PCR test will have Zoom access to observe class lessons. This access will allow the students at home to listen in to the activities of the lesson, however teachers will not be expected to provide virtual instruction targeted to students at home.
- Students are not permitted to drink directly from the school water fountains. They will be permitted to fill water bottles.

- Visitors are allowed in our schools according to our normal procedures and do not need to wear a mask. Mask wearing is also optional at our extracurricular activities.
- Each school building will still have an isolation location for students who show COVID-19 symptoms at school. Our school nurses are trained in our safety protocols and are equipped with the necessary PPE materials.
- We will once again provide families with a weekly communication of positive COVID-19 cases in the district.
- Please talk to your children about good practices related to COVID-19 and other health issues. They can include checking for symptoms daily, washing hands frequently, and talking to children about not sharing food or drinks.

Our district guidelines may not directly match the CDC recommendations. We will continue to take guidance from the NJ Department of Health and local health agencies to make the best possible decisions for our district and to communicate transparently with our community. As questions arise or updates are necessary, please visit our website for detailed information. I truly appreciate your cooperation.

Here is some other important information we wanted to share with you as we get ready for the school year:

- School meals are no longer free of charge to all students. The US Department of Agriculture discontinued its program that was instituted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Families should apply for free or reduced-price meals through our [School Nutrition Program](#) on our website or in the [Genesis Parent Portal](#).
- All of our curriculum has been updated to meet new NJ State learning standards and will provide opportunity to students of various levels to work together and solve problems to real-world applications. In addition, we will continue with our normal State assessments. A letter will be going home on September 1 with more detail. More information can be found on the district website under [Curriculum](#).

We look forward to seeing our students on September 6 and getting the school year off to a great start.

Sincerely,



Dr. Frank Ranelli
Superintendent of Schools