



Allamuchy Township School
20 Johnsonburg Road, Allamuchy, NJ 07820
908-852-1894

13 August 2021

Governor Phil Murphy
225 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the Allamuchy Township School District has worked diligently to execute our reentry plan that resulted in the implementation of our robust summer programming. During this time, we hosted approximately 25% of our students in a mask-optional environment. We were able to witness our classrooms operate normally with hands-on activities, centers, and small group learning stations. This was all done safely, responsibly, and with maintaining the health of our staff and students at the forefront.

As we have made it through the many challenges of this past school year and our summer programming, we continue to be faced with the inconsistencies related to the mask guidance. The community can see their students interact with classmates on the fields, at the pools, in stores and restaurants, and on playdates without masks and continue to do so in September. However, your recent mandate brings back the inconsistencies of the prior school year by isolating schools and making it mandatory to wear masks by students and staff.

Our district, as most in Warren County, has a very high percentage of staff, parents, and eligible students fully vaccinated. The rate of hospitalization due to Covid-19 and the mortality rate is very low. It has never been, nor should it become, the responsibility of the school to prevent the spread of illnesses. We do not mask up for the flu or other Coronaviruses. These viruses carry a risk of tragedy too. Due to the seemingly unfair and inconsistent rulings regarding masking, I am writing to request that you remove the indoor mask mandate for all PK-12 schools no later than August 30, 2021 and permit the schools and families to choose for themselves.

Sincerely,

Melissa Sabol, Ed.D.

cc: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education