



Egg Harbor Township Schools

www.eht.k12.nj.us
Administration Offices
13 Swift Drive
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

June 8, 2021

Parents and Guardians,

This morning you received a message regarding the wearing of masks on school property for heat relief. Today I received further clarification on the Governor's statement for all school districts via the Atlantic County Executive Superintendent. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) sent this clarification to districts regarding the wearing of masks indoors during the regular school day:

Masking protocols outlined in Executive Order No. 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 wearing a mask 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.

With the NJDOE's clarification on mask wearing in schools, along with my responsibility as a public school superintendent to follow the NJDOE guidance, the following guidance will be for all staff and students of the Egg Harbor Township School District: Due to the excessive heat, masks will be optional for students and staff when outside of our air-conditioned buildings. This includes recess, physical education classes, outdoor classrooms, playgrounds and on buses. We have air conditioning in all our buildings and in all classrooms; therefore, Executive Order 175 will be followed and masks are required. Indoor mask requirements will continue to be based on the ability to manage extreme heat and individual health requirements. If there are any circumstances that arise where a student or staff member is uncomfortable with the extreme heat, then students and staff may remove their masks indoors to protect the individual's health. We have mitigated the spread of COVID-19 since September. We can continue for six more school days to err on the side of caution and safety for all. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation.

Yours in Education,

Kimberly A. Gruccio, EdD.
Superintendent of Schools