



BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.blairstownelem.net

Dr. Patrick Ketch, *Superintendent*

Colleen Silvestri, *Principal*

Matthew Herzer, *Business Administrator*

Dr. Brian James, *Supervisor of Special Services*

February 24, 2022

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced on February 7, 2022, that the state's mask mandate in schools would end next month. Upon working with the BOE, the school nurse, and with the decreasing numbers with COVID-19 cases, Blairstown Elementary School will transition to mask optional for students and staff beginning March 7, 2022. Staff and students will have the option to wear or not to wear a mask. It is at the discretion of the parent of that individual.

Masks on transportation will continue to be required. According to the Department of Education, "Masking on transportation is mandated by the Federal government, therefore masking on school buses should remain, unless the Federal mandate is lifted." Students will not be allowed on a school bus without a mask.

The NJ Department of Health and the NJ Department of Education have updated their COVID-19 guidelines. For further information please visit our school website at www.blairstownelem.net. The guidelines are available to view under Blairstown Elementary School COVID-19 section. The guidelines are labeled K-12 guidelines and new daycare guidelines.

The district will continue with our mitigation measures including physical distancing when practicable, hand washing and sanitizing, and cleaning procedures throughout the day and evening.

Please review the guidelines on our website. We are grateful for your continued support over the past two years.

Thank you,

Dr. Patrick Ketch, Superintendent