



STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"

June 2021

Dear Governor Murphy,

Stafford Township School District was one of the first school districts in Ocean County to bring students back into the classrooms for full-week instruction in September. We have implemented various protective measures to ensure our staff and students are in the safest instructional environment possible.

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases decreases here in Stafford Township and Ocean County, we continue to move in the right direction. As of now, Executive Order 175 requires those in schools to continue wearing masks. As always, our district is operating in compliance with all state mandates. However, we believe we are at a point when the state policy regarding students and staff wearing masks at school, both indoors and outdoors, could be responsibly re-evaluated.

In Stafford Township, we support a consideration for masks to be optional in schools, as long as data continues to trend in the right direction. We base our position on the latest local and federal data, as well as the proactive steps we've taken to protect our school community. We believe we could safely take the next step in getting back to normal and we urge you to allow districts to decide if masks are a necessity based on local data.

Very truly yours,

George J. Chidiac
Superintendent of Schools