

**HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL**  
**320 JOHNSONBURG ROAD, PO BOX 293**  
**HOPE, NJ 07844**  
**PHONE: (908) 459-4242**  
[www.hope-elem.org](http://www.hope-elem.org)

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Kevin Newman  
*Chief School Administrator*

Dawn Huff  
*Business Administrator*

August 11, 2021

Dear Hope School Families,

On Friday, August 6 Governor Murphy announced Executive Order 251 which mandates the wearing of masks for all students and faculty in the indoor premises of all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings. Exceptions include the following:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors.
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance from all other individuals;
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

While we understand this is a polarizing issue, we are bound by the Executive Order to enforce the mask mandate for the start of the school year. In addition, we are not allowed to offer a remote/virtual learning option for our students per the New Jersey Department of Education. Over the next two weeks, we will be finalizing the opening plan/procedures for the Fall. It will be shared with the community after the BOE reviews the documents at their public meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the media center. As always, our goal is to continue to provide the safest, healthiest and highest level of education possible to our students. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours in Education,



Kevin Newman

CSA