

**HOPE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL**  
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[www.hope-elem.org](http://www.hope-elem.org)

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Kevin Newman  
*Chief School Administrator*

Dawn Huff  
*Business Administrator*

August 2, 2021

Dear Hope School Parents and Families:

I am writing this letter to update everyone on the current status of our school opening in September. As you have witnessed, there are ever changing guidelines and recommendations for schools across our country from the American Academy for Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control and from our own state and local authorities. **At this time, HTSD will continue to follow the guidance regarding optional face coverings in our building during the Summer months.** Nothing has changed thus far, but we cannot count on that being the case as we continue to prepare for our September return to school.

Our goal is to open our doors in a more normal fashion with face coverings being optional for vaccinated individuals, and highly recommended for unvaccinated individuals. There are no current mandates that require families or employees to be vaccinated in NJ Public Schools, but of course we encourage all community members to do what they feel is best to protect their families from the COVID-19 virus and the more contagious Delta variant.

Please know that it is our job as school leaders to make sure our educational environments are safe, conducive environments to promote learning. We will make the appropriate decisions as we are provided more guidance and recommendations from the local, state and federal agencies responsible for providing protocols and procedures. It is our intention to continue to collaborate with our school community, staff, BOE and Warren County school leaders over the next month to review and adjust safety procedures as necessary. We will have an update to our community by August 25, 2021 immediately after our August BOE meeting on August 24th where we will finalize our "Safe Return" plan. Our current plan that was approved in June is located on our school web page [www.hope-elem.org](http://www.hope-elem.org) under the News and Announcements section on our homepage. We will continue to spend extra time, care and effort to thoroughly clean our school building and classrooms each day. These procedures will not change regardless of the recommendations or protocol requirements.

Unfortunately the reality is...we cannot predict what the NJ Governor, our NJ Department of Health or NJ Department of Education will require of us at this time. Be assured as a school community, that as soon as we know and adjust our current plan to return, if needed, we will inform you as soon as possible. Again, as of today, nothing has changed.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during the past 18 months and please reach out if you have any questions regarding this communication. Have a great day and an awesome month of August!

Yours in Education,

Kevin Newman – Chief School Administrator