
ANNA SCIACCA

Superintendent of Schools
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July 2, 2021

Dear Members of the Garfield Community:

As per the Governor's directive, districts will no longer provide options for remote learning or the hybrid model of learning and all students must report to school for in person instruction in September 2021. The district is required to develop and make publicly available on the district website, a plan titled, "A Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services". This Safe Return Plan was developed in collaboration with the Garfield District Restart and Recovery Committee and contains sections on the following topics: Universal and correct wearing of masks; Physical distancing; Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; Cleaning and maintain healthy facilities, including ventilation; Contact tracing with isolation and quarantine; Efforts to provide vaccinations; and Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies. The Safe Return Plan can be found on the district website or by copying and pasting the following link:

<http://www.gboe.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=66773&pageId=34283448>.

It is important to read the plan over prior to the start of the new school year and address any questions or concerns to your building principal /supervisor.

In a recent announcement on June 28, 2021, Governor Murphy stated that masking in schools will no longer be mandatory, "absent any dramatic change in our situation before the beginning of the school year" and has left the decision to require masks to each individual school district. The Garfield District will move to make mask wearing optional for all staff and students participating in our summer programs, effectively immediately. This protocol remains contingent upon the status of Covid -19 and related strains in the Garfield community and is subject to change immediately should there be a significant rise in Covid-19 positive cases. The Garfield Restart and Recovery Committee will meet in late August to reevaluate the most recent data and confirm that it remains safe to make the wearing of masks optional when school reopens in the Fall. As you are all aware from our experiences during the pandemic, district protocols often change immediately to comply with the recommendations of the CDC, New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Education, and the Governor's Executive Orders as we continue to make health and safety our priority.

The district will provide you with updated information regarding the final protocols for health and safety, including the wearing of masks in schools, prior to the start of 2021-2022 school year.

I hope you are well and extend my best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer with your families.

Regards,

Anna Sciacca

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Superintendent

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