



January 10, 2022

Dear TPS Community –

I know that there are many questions and concerns related to quarantine guidelines, COVID procedures, and the mask mandate, currently set to expire tomorrow, January 11th. I would like to address these concerns to both answer some questions and hopefully ease some concerns.

CDC Guidelines

I can certainly understand the frustration relative to the current COVID guidelines, specifically the difference in quarantine periods following exposure to positive individuals or for those with positive test results. However, the fact is that we are all susceptible to infection in spite of our vaccination status. Vaccination does lower our risk of severe illness, but we can still become infected and hence place others at risk.

The recent recommendations made by the CDC, which we understand have been reiterated by other organizations and medical professionals, apply to the general public, not to schools as per the NJDOH.

Per the CDC: Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days. [To learn why the CDC updated guidance for the *general public*, visit the CDC website.](#)

Per the NJDOH: The CDC has not yet applied the recently revised isolation and quarantine timeframes for the general population to K-12 schools. Therefore, until the CDC updates school-specific guidance, it is recommended that K-12 schools continue to follow [conventional isolation and quarantine timeframes](#) (10-day isolation/exclusion; 7 or 10-day quarantine/exclusion with and without negative testing). **This is the protocol Tenafly Schools continue to follow until further notice.** We will continue to watch for future updates as this guidance may change in the near future.

Mask Wearing Mandate

As many of you know, the mask mandate for NJ public schools is set to expire tomorrow, January 11th. However, the mask mandate is also a Tenafly Public Schools policy ([see the Road Forward, Appendix C, Mask Wearing Mandate](#)). In light of the contagion level of the Omicron variant, the Tenafly Public Schools mask mandate will remain in place and we will continue to wear our masks in schools.

[Per the Road Forward](#), all students, staff and visitors (over the age of 2 years) will be required to wear a face mask while on premise and indoors. Masks are also required on all school buses and transportation vehicles. Masks are not required outdoors, during aerobic/anaerobic activity (physical education class, athletics, etc.), or during instrumental music (if suitable face masks are not available). Masks may be removed while eating/drinking, and in conditions of high heat (when “Feels Like” temperatures are 85 F or higher).

We are doing everything we can to ensure that our records are as up-to-date and accurate as possible. However, if you feel that your student’s outcome differs from your interpretation of the guidelines, reach out to your school principal or nurse to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information on your student.

We also thank you for your patience in regards to virtual links to classrooms. Our immediate focus each day is on contact tracing, as required, and ensuring that your student is in a safe environment. Classroom links will typically be available, for those classes with virtual capabilities, on the following school day.

Finally, if you have further questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me. I thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the variants of COVID together.

Yours in Education,



Shauna C. DeMarco
Superintendent
Tenafly Public Schools