



## NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 20, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past few weeks, with the continued return of students attending school every day, the energy of our beloved schools has returned! I thank everyone for their patience and vigilance in allowing for this success while maintaining our health and safety. The past few weeks has also brought some mixed messages regarding health protocol from our governing agencies. I know that this has caused some confusion and frustration with all of our constituents. We share your sentiments. Please know that as a district, we are invested in returning our schools back to our normal protocols as soon as possible. With that said, I want to announce our next steps, which are aligned to the most recent guidance.

Beginning on June 2, 2021, we will no longer require check-in protocols at each of our schools. Please see enclosed form [HERE](#), that we would ask you to acknowledge, by Monday, May 24th. With your consent, you are acknowledging that as parents you will be responsible for screening your child(ren) each day for the rest of the school year with respect to Covid related symptoms. If your child has any Covid related symptoms, please keep your child home and contact your school nurse.

In terms of outdoor after-school activities and ceremonies, *masks will no longer be necessary as long as six-foot social distancing can be maintained.* If and when groups of students, parents, staff, or community members congregate within six feet of each other, we ask that you please put on your mask.

As per NJSIAA guidelines, during outdoor athletic events, no masks will be required of players, coaches, and officials. Fans who attend NJSIAA events are not required to wear a mask, so long as they can maintain six-foot social distancing.

Please be assured that as the State continues to release information related to Covid restrictions, we will do our due diligence in order to ensure that we are following the appropriate regulations. We appreciate that as announcements are made at the State level, it may appear that these changes apply to all entities. Please note however, that as a public school district we must wait for the Department of Health and/or Department of Education to provide us with specific guidance as it pertains to schools.

We will continue to keep you apprised of any additional changes that may lie ahead for the remainder of this school year. Next week, I am anticipating new guidance from the Department of Education regarding the 2021-2022 school year. Once we have this information, we will continue to work on our plan for the next school year, and share these details with you as soon as possible.

Thank you once again for your patience and support. I look forward to seeing everyone in-person at our end of year events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Minko, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Superintendent of Schools