



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

445 Lafayette Avenue, 2nd Floor
Hawthorne, NJ 07506
(973) 427-1300

March 4, 2022

Good Evening Hawthorne Families.

As a follow-up to my letter from Monday, February 28, 2022, I am writing to update you on our school procedures for Monday, March 7, 2022.

Revised Hawthorne protocols based on the updated guidance.

- **Masking in school and on school buses is OPTIONAL as of Monday, March 7, 2022.** The district will respect the decision equally of those who choose to continue to wear masks and those who choose not to do so. Students and staff will base their decision on their own circumstances, and the district will respect the decision of our students and staff.
- District staff will **not** monitor the wearing of student masks. We ask that parents have a conversation with their children about their mask expectations while being transported on a school bus or attending school.
- Please click the link to view our current [quarantine and school exclusion guidelines](#). The Hawthorne Public School District will continue to use these recommended guidelines until the NJDOH changes them. This includes the use of virtual instruction for students who have tested positive or are considered close contacts.
- Students and staff will be required to wear masks upon return to school after testing positive for COVID and quarantining or isolating at home. As is the case now, a student or staff member who returns from the five-day quarantine will be required to wear a mask in school for days 6 - 10 at all times.
- There is no change to our distancing mitigation efforts in our classrooms and during lunch. The district will continue to maintain distance as much as reasonably possible in all settings.
- The district will maintain the enhanced cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation procedures already in place. Air purifiers will continue to be used in all classrooms, and we will continue to open classroom windows for greater ventilation. Finally, as the weather warms up over the next few weeks, we will increase students' outdoor time.

- In consultation with the local health department, the Hawthorne Public School District may decide to reinstate mask requirements temporarily at any time, but particularly when/if community virus spread is high or when the region's CALI score is red or orange.

We realize that the change to mask protocols can be unsettling for some. However, the current COVID numbers in town and our schools allow us to move forward optimistically. As of the latest town data, the community only reported 18 positive cases in the past week. In addition, our school numbers have declined dramatically as well. In fact, this past week, we only reported two students and 0 staff members who tested positive for COVID. Finally, although the northwest region remains in the yellow (moderate) category on the [CALI report](#), the numbers have continued to decrease significantly over the past few weeks.

In closing, we will continue to share updates with our Hawthorne families and post all communications to our [district website](#). Please remember we are here to answer questions, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, building administrator, or my office with any questions.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our schools.

With Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Spirito". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Richard A. Spirito