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Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., *Superintendent*
Jason M. Bohm, CPA, *Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

jhart@readington.k12.nj.us
jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us

P.O. Box 807 • 52 Readington Road • Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 • (908)-534-2195 • (908) 349-3042 fax

May 21, 2021

Dear Readington School Community,

Earlier this week Governor Murphy made several announcements relating to schools and the current COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed school opening in the fall, the lifting of travel restrictions, and updated mask wearing protocols. In addition, we received the [COVID Activity Report](#) for this week and our region remains yellow.

As I stated in my letter last week, we are preparing for a full-time reopening of schools in September. The Governor made it clear that all students will be expected to attend in-person instruction in the fall. The district is in the process of reviewing the requirements of the *Safe Start Plan* required by the New Jersey Department of Education. We will use this required plan to inform our full-time instructional model for the fall.

The Governor also lifted travel restrictions stating that New Jersey will no longer require individuals to quarantine when returning to New Jersey after domestic travel. He emphasized travelers to be cautious, use good judgement, and follow CDC recommendations. Therefore, our district will no longer require staff and students traveling from a destination within the United States to quarantine upon their return home regardless of vaccine status. However, we strongly encourage travelers to review the [CDC recommendations](#), monitor signs and symptoms, and adhere to these guidelines whenever possible. You may contact your school nurse or principal and let them know of your travel plans and discuss quarantine. If you suspect you or your child have been exposed to COVID-19 during your travels, please quarantine and/or get tested before returning to school.

Finally, masks/face coverings remain a requirement indoors in New Jersey. All staff, students, and visitors will be required to wear an appropriate face covering when entering our school buildings. The Governor also announced that masks are not required outdoors in certain public places, which we initially thought applied to schools. Further, more detailed information from the state has informed us that masks are still required in outdoor areas such as schools. Specifically stating, "The [Executive] order notes that outdoor public spaces do not include child care centers, other child care facilities, youth summer camps, and public, private, and parochial preschool program premises, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools. Current recommendations and requirements regarding masking in those settings will remain in effect." According to our *Readington Ready Plan* masks will not be worn outdoors during extreme heat and vigorous physical activity. Our PE teachers and coaches are aware of these exceptions.

New Jersey continues to move in a positive direction as we combat COVID-19. We appreciate your cooperation and resilience as we live our mission of empowering members of our community to lead purposeful lives with integrity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart".

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools