



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 20, 2021  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools  
From: Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Field Services

## **New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Department of Health Update School Year 2021-2022 Health and Safety Guidance**

On June 28, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy and Acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan released *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year*. The guidance included health and safety recommendations and strategies to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19, while still prioritizing full-time, in-person learning. Today, the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) are updating that guidance to align with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for K–12 schools and Executive Order 251 (Murphy) (2021).

Subsequent to the initial release of *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year*, the CDC updated its [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K–12 Schools](#). Additionally, on August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order 251](#), which requires all public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, to maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor premises of school buildings, with limited exceptions.

The NJDOE continues to encourage local educational agencies to collaborate with their local health departments as they plan for full-time, in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. The [updated guidance document](#) may be found on the NJDOE's [Road Forward](#) webpage, with updates indicated in **yellow highlight**.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education  
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