



Ms. Eileen F. Shafer
Superintendent of Schools

December 22, 2022

Dear School Staff Members:

As you may be aware, COVID-19, RSV, and Flu rates are going up throughout the state. Currently, Passaic County is at a high transmission rate. Your safety and well-being is our priority so to mitigate the spread of illness, it has been decided that upon the return from winter break we are reinstating the district-wide mask mandate. This decision has been made under the guidance of Paterson’s Director of Health, Dr. Persaud, as the city is currently experiencing a community spread. We will reevaluate this decision as we follow the data and monitor the change in the rate of transmission.

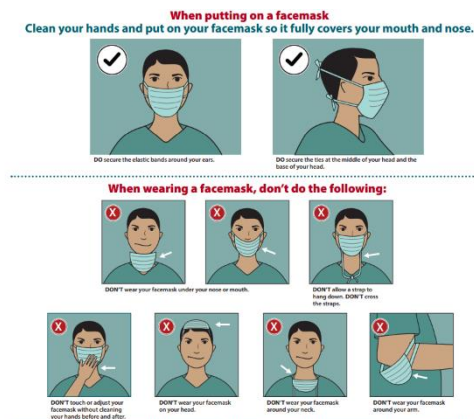
As for mask requirement, I know this is a relief to some, and a frustration to others. No matter what your position may be, I ask for your cooperation. Please continue to maintain universal masking throughout our buildings and we encourage you to take all other precautions against the spread of the COVID-19, RSV, Flu virus including maintaining frequent hand washing, avoiding large gatherings, and staying home when sick.

All employees and students must wear masks from the time they enter the building to the time they leave the building. Wear your personal mask to work. If you forget your mask, one will be available upon request. A variety of PPE will be available based on student and staff needs. The only time an employee or student can remove his or her mask is for eating, drinking, or taking medication. Additionally, any visitors will be required to wear a mask.

Please be reminded to implement mask sanitizing procedures. They are:

1. Wash your hands before putting on the mask; and
2. Wash your hands before removing the mask;

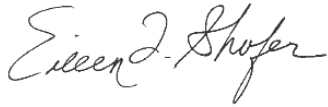
Also, see the diagram below on how to properly wear a mask.



If at any time any PPE equipment is not available that should be available to you (i.e., hand sanitizer, or face masks), please notify your building administrator, direct report, or the School Chief Custodian.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping yourself and others in the District healthy. Stay safe during the Holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen F. Shafer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Eileen F. Shafer, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools