

February 11, 2022

Dear Rutherford Families,

This week, Governor Murphy announced that he will lift the mask mandate for schools across the state and allow districts to make their own decisions regarding face coverings. After discussing with the Rutherford Board of Health, it was decided that our district will move to a “mask-optional” status, starting on March 7 – the date set by the governor allowing the change.

While it has always been the goal to get back to “normal” as quickly as possible, the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remains our main priority. We feel comfortable making the change to a mask-optional policy based on the conditions and case numbers we currently see in our area. However, we know things can change quickly during a pandemic. If conditions warrant a change, we may have to require masks again in the future.

Anyone who feels more comfortable wearing a mask can continue to do so. We simply will not be requiring them.

We are still waiting for additional guidance from the state regarding social distancing and quarantine guidelines and will communicate any changes when we learn of them.

While we may be seeing some light at the end of this long tunnel, we must not become complacent. We will continue to monitor data daily, collaborate with the local and state Board of Health, and ask you to report any confirmed or potential COVID cases to the school nurses. This information will be crucial in keeping us safe as we move forward.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and compliance – which has helped get us to this point. We know it’s been a long two years, but we are very much looking forward to the milestone of March 7.

Sincerely,

Jack Hurley

Superintendent of Schools