



**T O T O W A
P U B L I C
S C H O O L S**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Washington Park School
10 Crews Street, Totowa, NJ 07512
Phone: 973-956-0010

Patricia Capitelli

Superintendent

August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In less than two weeks, we will begin the 2021-2022 school year and I have been asked to share some pandemic-related updates. Many meetings have been held throughout the summer months to discuss Totowa's Safe Return to School Plan. The draft revisions to the plan are available on our district website, <http://www.totowa.k12.nj.us>.

The Totowa School District is committed to opening on a full day schedule on September 9, 2021, the first day of school. Our ability to remain open and on this schedule will require attention to several items.

- **Contact Tracing:** The district will continue to use contact tracing to identify any close contacts to confirmed COVID cases. These individuals can stop quarantining after ten (10) days without testing or seven (7) days after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day five (5) or later). Individuals who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine unless they have symptoms. Asynchronous learning opportunities will be available to any student(s) or class(es) that need to quarantine.
- **Travel Quarantine:** There has been no change to the quarantine required after travel outside the region for anyone unvaccinated. The process is a test 3 – 5 days after travel and, if negative, then quarantine for only seven (7) days. Lack of a test requires a ten (10) day quarantine after returning. Please be mindful of this as we approach the beginning of school.
- **Masks:** On August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 251 which requires that all staff, students, and visitors wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the indoor premises of school buildings. This requirement applies to all public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools. Masks must be worn on buses. When outdoors, masks do NOT need to be worn.

Each week, the COVID-19 Activity Report for Passaic County will be posted on our website. We will continue to work closely with our local health department as we make future decisions.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Patricia Capitelli

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