

# BERLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Where Students Discover Their Potential"*

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February 15, 2022

Dear BCS Community,

After much consideration and review of COVID case trends at BCS, I am lifting the mandatory mask mandate for the BCS. Starting **Monday, March 7, 2022**, parents have the option of directing their children to wear a mask. Staff masking is optional as well. *It is important to note that I reserve the right to reinstitute mandatory masking at any point if conditions warrant this action.*

The choice of anyone to continue wearing a mask will not be a topic of discussion in school. Further, any demeaning or negative comment to those students who continue to wear masks may be subject to the District HIB policy.

At this time, I am waiting for clarification from the NJDOH regarding procedures about:

- COVID positive students and staff,
- close contacts,
- quarantining,
- contact tracing,
- testing, and
- boosters.

I will send out another communication related to the above matters when the NJDOH provides this information.

| Please be advised the following protocols will remain in place: |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Transportation</b>                                           | Masking on transportation is mandated by the Federal government; therefore, masking on school buses <b>must</b> remain. |
| <b>Health Office</b>                                            | Any student entering the nurse's office <b>must</b> wear a mask, regardless of the reason for the visit.                |
| <b>Field Trips</b>                                              | Any destination that requires a mask, the students, staff, and chaperones <b>must</b> comply.                           |

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JC", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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## BCS COVID Cases from September to Present

