

August 5, 2021

Dear High Bridge and NH/Voorhees Board of Education members:

I am writing to you to share my concern about all children attending K-12 NOT being mandated to wear masks. With the pandemic numbers increasing, the introduction of the variant COVID virus, more and more people are getting sick. Our youngest group of children do not have an opportunity to get the vaccine until likely late fall, well past when it's needed to protect them for close quarters and exposure at school.

Both the CDC, America Academy of Pediatrics, the State of NJ Department of Health and so many others have provided strong guidance to have everyone mask, regardless of vaccination status.

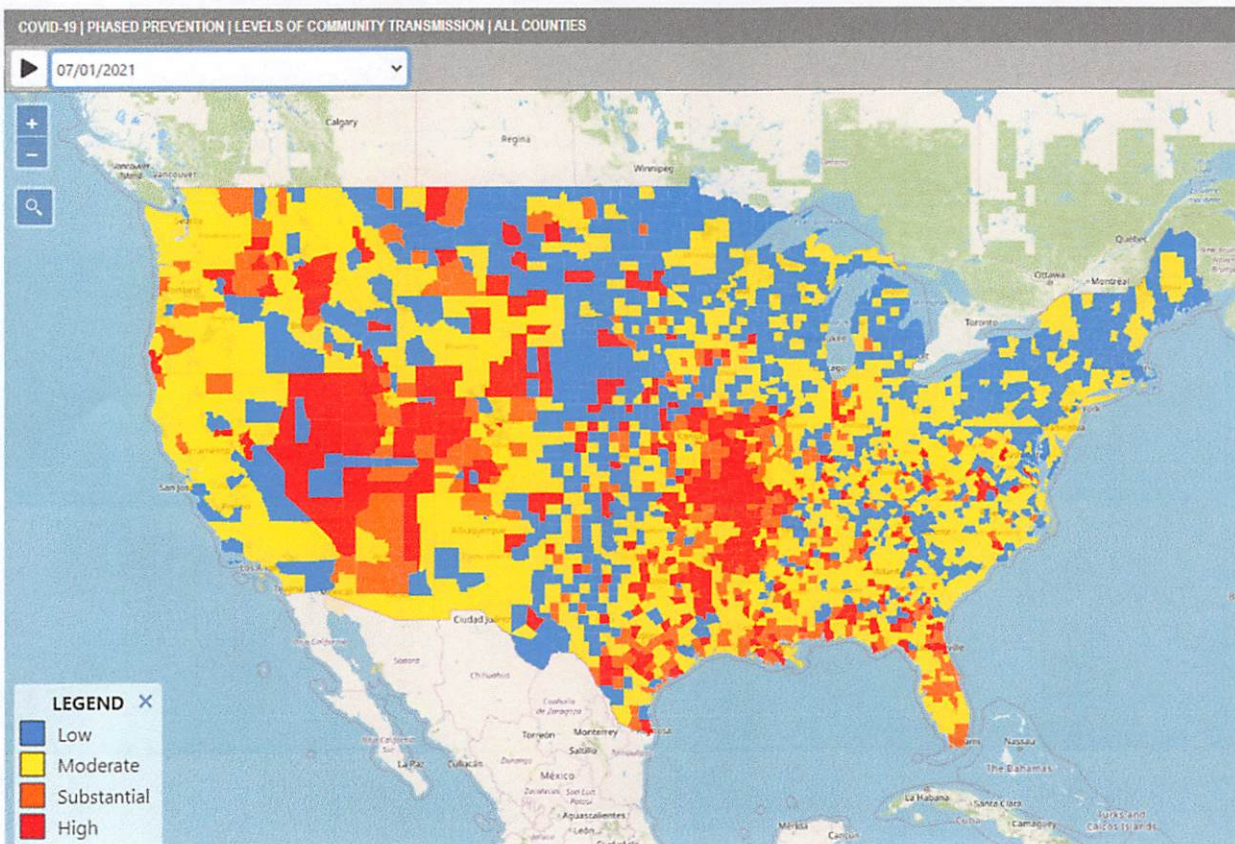
- <https://services.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2021/american-academy-of-pediatrics-updates-recommendations-for-opening-schools-in-fall-2021/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/should-i-wear-a-mask-to-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19>

As you can see from the graphic below, COVID cases are ever-increasing. Our children need to be in school full-time and NOT virtual and enforcing mandatory masking is the only way to continue to keep kids in school.

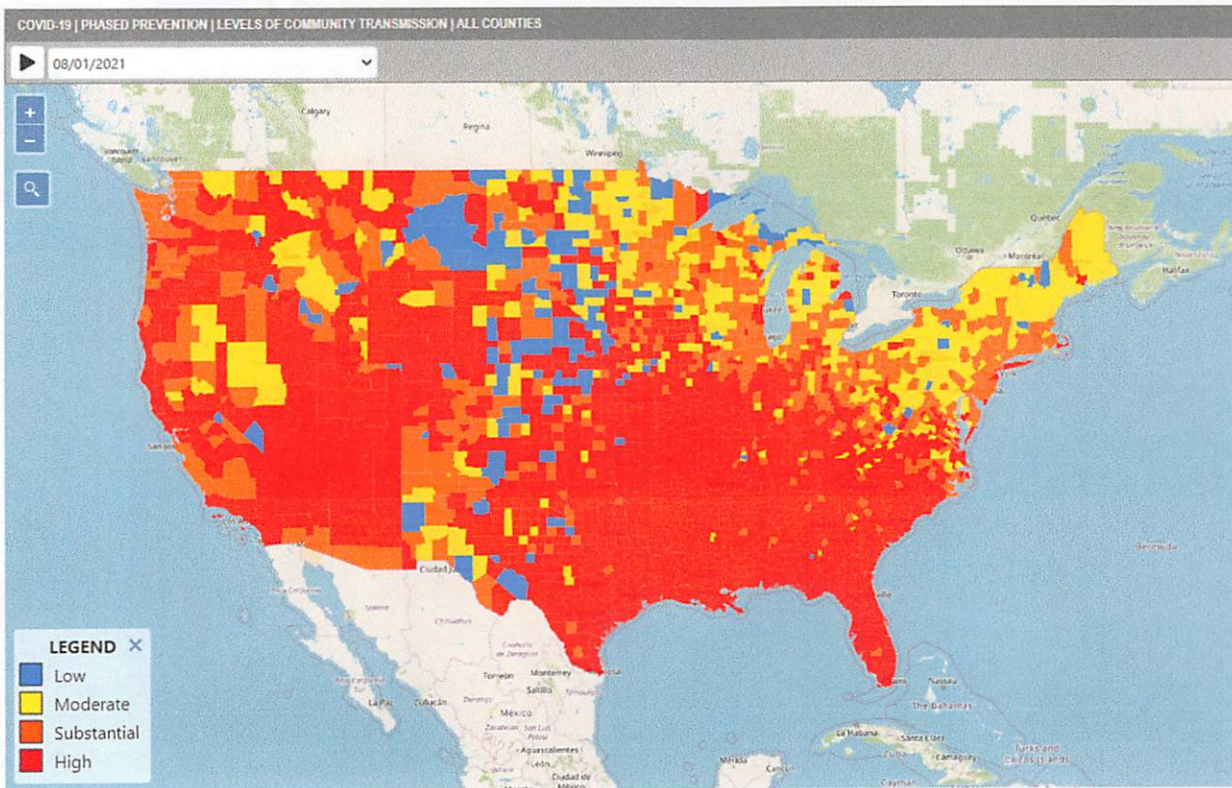
Source: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

(Scroll down to Time Lapse Map and pick two dates): 7/5/2021 and 8/5/2021

July 1, 2021



August 1, 2021 (most current data available)



I urge you to please mandate mask wearing by staff, teachers, students and anyone in the school buildings for the 2021/2022 school year.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.


Susan Domagalski

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