

# Township of Branchburg



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, the Governor of New Jersey, Phillip Murphy, signed Executive Order 251 on August 6, 2021 enacting a mandatory mask mandate for all New Jersey school children; and*

*WHEREAS, the Governor has decreed that all New Jersey school children must wear a mask upon the return to school in September 2021, unless specific exempt criteria are met; and*

*WHEREAS, as Mayor of the Township of Branchburg, I acknowledge the potential risks to children from Covid-19, and that it is also the right and responsibility of individual parents and caregivers to make appropriate healthcare decisions for their own children, including the right to assess both the benefits and detriments of mask wearing; and*

*WHEREAS, I endorse the fundamental rights of parents and guardians to make the decision of whether or not to send their children to school in a mask, based on the parents' and individual child's healthcare needs and potential risks to others; and*

*WHEREAS, this in no way detracts from the potential seriousness of Covid-19, but rather affirms parental autonomy and authority in making appropriate decisions for their own children.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I as Mayor of the Township of Branchburg, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, acknowledge that parents and guardians, along with their healthcare providers, are in the best position and authority to make this determination for their own children, and I will present a Resolution for approval by the Township Committee at their next scheduled meeting requesting that Governor Murphy reconsider the mask mandate imposed by Executive Order 251.

*Dated: August 18, 2021*

ATTEST:

Maggie Schmitt  
Township Clerk

Brendon Beatrice  
Mayor