



Derry Township School District

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Good Afternoon Derry Township Families,

Friday evening, the Commonwealth Court overturned the school mask mandate signed by Alison Beam, Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of Health, that went into effect on September 7, 2021. The Supreme Court's Order does not change a school district's ability to require masks based on its own determination.

Although districts are now able to make their own determination for school mask requirements, the Supreme Court's order does **not** affect: 1) the wearing of face masks on transportation, which continues to be required by a federal order from the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC); and 2) the PDE quarantine requirements, which continue in place for now.

Prior to the mandate taking effect on September 7, 2021, the Derry Township School District Board of Directors voted to require masking for all students and staff K-12 as a part of the District's Health and Safety plan. As a result, the District was able to reduce the amount of close contact quarantines for the 2021-2022 school year and has been able to keep schools open which is critical to our students and families. The district's Health & Safety Plan must be reviewed and updated every six months, as such a revised version of the plan will be presented to the Board of School Directors on Monday, December 13th. **For school on Monday, the masking requirement contained in the District's current Health and Safety Plan will stay in place, and students and staff will be expected to remain in compliance.**

COVID-19 safety and keeping schools open remain important issues to our students, staff, and families. The Pandemic Team continues to meet monthly to review the Health and Safety plan and propose adjustments as needed. We will continue to communicate with families as additional updates are provided. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue to navigate these regulatory changes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacy Winslow