

Clearfield Area School District

Administrative Offices
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Thursday, September 2, 2021

Face Mask Requirements

Dear Clearfield Families,

As we are sure many of you are aware, the PA Secretary of Health issued a mask mandate for anyone inside schools effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021. While we know there are a variety of opinions and concerns in regard to masking or not being masked, as of this writing it is an expectation that students and staff will be wearing face masks in the school settings. To review the order it can be found on the PA Department of Education's website, or by following this link:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/MaskingOrder/Pages/default.aspx>

We will be expecting everyone to be face masked upon arrival at school on Tuesday. There will be face masks available for students if they do not have one. We followed this path last year and I use that as a reminder that there will be opportunities for face mask breaks throughout the day as much as our social distancing will permit. Whenever the students are outside, participating in physical education, or eating lunch, face masks are not required.

While I know some will not see any positive aspect of this, it is important to share some items that may help lessen the challenge:

1. In the incident of a positive case with a student, if both parties are properly face masked, only those student close contacts who are within three feet for more than 15 minutes need to be excluded from the school setting for a quarantine. This is a change from last year where everyone within six feet had to be excluded. If there are not masks, we have to follow the six-foot guideline. For some of you who are already experiencing quarantines this school year, this could have changed your child's situation.
2. We currently have everyone back in school every day. We would like to keep that happening as long as we can without needing to utilize or implement a virtual setting, or an A/B rotation again. If face masks can at all help eliminate any transmission between students and staff, that may help to achieve that goal.

If the students can't be here, they can't receive the in-person instruction on a daily basis we know is important. They can't be with their friends, they can't participate with their teams and they can't enjoy the activities they find at

school. Involvement with almost all of our extracurricular activities require students to be in class and in attendance.

As we find ourselves facing this mandate, let's not forget what we worked through last school year. While I don't think anyone developed a passion for face masks, A/B schedules or virtual days, we did progress and move through the challenges. This is a new challenge, and while many may not like it, we will work our way through it and try our best to keep our focus on doing our first job, taking care of our children, and helping them to grow and learn.

If you have specific questions in regard to your child and this requirement, please contact your child's principal and we will try our best to help and answer your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Terry W. Struble

Terry W. Struble, Superintendent