

KEVIN S. PEART, ED.D.
Superintendent

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September 2, 2021

Dear L-S Families,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your collective health and safety efforts during the start of the 2021-2022 school year. We appreciate your communication with our schools and your dedication to completing the [Daily COVID Screening](#) before sending your students to school each day. Like all school districts, we are currently experiencing positive COVID cases and quarantines in all of our buildings. We continue to utilize in-depth case investigation, contact tracing, and collaboration with local health professionals and the PA Department of Health for each individual case.

As you are likely aware, Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Alison Beam has issued an [Order requiring face coverings to be worn in all school entities](#), including school districts, brick and mortar and cyber charter schools, private and parochial schools, career and technical centers, intermediate units, and early learning and other child care settings, **effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021**. The Secretary of Education has notified all school entities of the requirement to follow the Order and provided [answers to FAQs on the PA Department of Education's website](#).

I recognize that the announcement of this Order brings mixed feelings for our students, staff, and community. Some view the Order as a great relief, while others are clearly angry. Immediately upon receiving the Order, the District had our legal counsel review the Order, and we were informed that unless or until a court of competent jurisdiction issues an injunction, the School District is obligated to comply with the provisions of the Order. The District's previously approved [Health and Safety Plan](#) includes language that "the District will adhere to any existing, valid and binding orders from the PA Department of Health or other governmental agency regarding facial coverings."

Following this required compliance, and alignment with our previously approved Health and Safety Plan, we will be following the Order beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2021. In a change from the 2020 Order, face coverings are not required outdoors. A few clarifications regarding the Order:

- A plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth, extends below the chin to the ears, and leaves no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece is an acceptable alternative.
- Should your student have a medical exception to the Order, please contact your building principal directly to obtain a medical exemption form to be completed with your physician information.

Collectively we appreciate your support in having your student follow this Order and not put our staff members in the middle of any disagreement that you may have with this Order. Please be reminded of the alternate educational offerings for students not wanting to comply with the Order:

- Fulltime, graded online instructional option through Lampeter-Strasburg School District (Monday—Friday). Please be aware that this is through our partnership with Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 and utilizes a separate curricula and non-L-S instructors. For this reason, a switch to the option strongly recommends a commitment of a semester (until mid-year "tweener day"). Please contact your building principal directly for more information.
- Homeschooling is always an option for families. This option requires the student to withdraw from Lampeter-Strasburg School District and the parent assumes the responsibility for the child's education, following the [PA Homeschool Regulations](#).

Thank you again for continuing to support our students and staff by following all components of our Health and Safety Plan. I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Peart, Ed.D.
Superintendent