



**St. Mary's County Public Schools  
Central Administration**

**Office of the Superintendent**  
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 109  
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Phone: 301-475-5511 ext. 32178; Fax: 301-475-4270

**Dr. J. Scott Smith**  
Superintendent

September 27, 2021

Dear SMCPs Families:

At the beginning of this year, we shared that our decision-making for determining when masks would be worn in our school buildings would be based on the level of community transmission in St. Mary's County. Since that time, the State Board of Education and the Maryland General Assembly have voted to enact [COMAR 13A.01.06, Face Coverings in School Facilities](#). This regulation requires everyone to wear a face covering while in a public school facility, with certain exceptions. Those exceptions are delineated in our [revised protocols](#).

While St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPs) already made the decision to require masks indoors, the State's action supersedes the decision making process set forth by SMCPs earlier this year, which means that the benchmarks for when we review local data for determining our masking requirements no longer apply. Instead, the State mandate for universal masking is in place for at least the next 180 calendar days or when the State Board takes action to make a change.

Based on newly passed COMAR Requirements, St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPs) has modified our [2021-2022 Protocols for Masking](#), which are posted on our [Health and Safety](#) page on our website. Masking requirements apply to all SMCPs *indoor* settings (with the exceptions as noted in the regulation). For *outdoor activities*, masking is *not required*; however, unvaccinated individuals are strongly recommended to do so. In addition, CDC and Health department guidance allows for individuals who are alone in a space to be unmasked. Therefore, staff working alone in their classroom or office are not required to be masked. As additional guidance or clarification is provided, we will be sure to share information and adjust our protocols accordingly.

Our first priority is the safety and well-being of our students and staff, and we thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we adjust to changing guidance and requirements.

With appreciation,

J. Scott Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools