



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

**Office of the Superintendent**  
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**Dr. J. Scott Smith**  
Superintendent

July 29, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians of Students Attending Summer Programs:

This week, the CDC issued [recommendations](#) for reinstating masking protocols in public indoor settings in areas of [substantial or high transmission](#) of COVID-19. The St. Mary's County Health Department followed by issuing a [Public Health Advisory](#) and provided a letter with "strong recommendations" to the school system to consider reissuing masking protocols in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In light of this guidance, effective Monday, August 2, 2021, the following protocols will be implemented *for the remaining two weeks of our summer school programming*:

- All students in grades PreK-8 attending in-person will be required to wear masks while inside a school building.
- All students will continue to be required to wear masks while on school buses.

Consistent with state and local guidance, adults and high school students who have been fully vaccinated will not be required to wear face coverings indoors.

All SMCPS employees and eligible students who have not been vaccinated are expected to wear masks when indoors and are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated by the beginning of school, August 30, 2021.

We will continue to monitor community health metrics and updated guidance throughout the remainder of the summer in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,

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