



Wesley T. Doll, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph L. Albin
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Shelley L. Hobbs, PCSBA
Business Administrator

Anne K. Corwell, Ed.D.
Director of Student Services

James D. Van Dyke
Director of Technology & Transportation

UPPER ADAMS SCHOOL DISTRICT

161 North Main Street, Biglerville, PA 17307
Phone: (717) 677-7191 Fax: (717) 677-9807
www.upperadams.org

September 3, 2021

RE: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 Mask Order and Other COVID Information

Dear UASD Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to navigate the ongoing challenges of COVID-19. Our priority focus is to keep our schools open with in-person (face-to-face) instruction for all K-12 students at Upper Adams School District (UASD). We need your help. Please continue to closely monitor your child's health and consult with your healthcare provider if any symptoms such as a sore throat, temperature, coughing, or other symptoms arise that are new and/or not explained by another reason. For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health's website <https://www.health.pa.gov>. If you decide to keep your child at home as a precaution or because your child is exhibiting symptoms, please inform your child's school office.

CURRENT QUARANTINE/COVID-19 CASES UPDATE:

Although we did not provide a public dashboard last school year and we do not plan to create a public dashboard this year, in the first seven days of the school year, we are already seeing an increase in district quarantines and COVID-19 cases. As we learn about COVID-19 cases we will follow the guidelines below for vaccinated and unvaccinated students/adults.

NEW MASK ORDER, THE IMPACT OF THE ORDER, AND EXCEPTION TO FACE COVERING INFORMATION:

On Tuesday, August 31, 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Health instituted a mask mandate for all schools stating teachers, students, staff, and visitors working, attending, or visiting any school entity shall wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status. The order is effective after the Labor Day Weekend on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The order and other information can be found at the provided links:

[PDE Masking Order Site](#)

[ORDER](#)

[PDE FAQs](#)

Exceptions to face covering requirements are outlined in Section 3 of the new mask order. Like last year, if your child has a documented medical mental health or disability condition which will be affected by the wearing of a mask, please contact your child's building principal to receive information about this process. The district does not have to update our current UASD Health and Safety Plan, however the district must comply with the order, while it is in place. The UASD Health and Safety Plan will resume as written when the mask order is no longer in effect. As elected school board officials and a Commissioned Officer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are legally obligated to enforce the mandate under the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955.

We are aware that some families are upset with this mandate. The community has a wide-range of feelings and emotions regarding face coverings. I want to be clear; when we operate with restrictions that take us away from our familiar school setting and processes, it is not our desired approach. This is why we must work together to keep the primary focus on providing in-person instruction. We understand from those in the medical profession and in authority that certain steps must be taken to support public health initiatives and to

achieve our goals. Similar to last year, students are required to wear a mask on the bus and in school buildings, but are not required to wear a mask outdoors.

CURRENT PROTOCOLS (as of Friday, September 3, 2021):

Per our established protocols in our District Health and Safety Plan, we continue to thoroughly disinfect areas of the building daily.

District administrators and nurses will continue to do contact tracing as needed. This year we streamlined the communications to only those students/staff members who are a close contact to a positive COVID case. If a student/staff member is identified as a close contact, they will be notified and provided a letter from the school building principal. We will also be in contact with the Pennsylvania Department of Health as a necessary precaution for the health and well-being of our students and staff members. According to the Department of Health, the latest recommendations are as follows:

- If identified as a close contact, vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine given the mask requirement. Asymptomatic vaccinated individuals should continue to monitor symptoms and seek testing 3-5 days after exposure to a positive case.
- If identified as a close contact, unvaccinated individuals should quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms. A negative COVID-19 test, taken 5 days after the last day of exposure, may reduce the 10-day quarantine period. If you have questions, please contact your healthcare provider.

If your child is symptomatic and is being tested for COVID-19, please share this information with the school nurse.

UASD will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Any changes that arise will be communicated to our students and families as soon as possible.

Thank you all for your input (emails and other communications) regarding your support and your lack of support for students wearing masks in school. As I have shared previously, our priority is to keep K-12 schools at UASD open for in-person (face-to-face) instruction. As a Commissioned Officer of the Commonwealth, I am required to follow the order from the Acting Secretary of Health's Order. I ask for your support to keep our students in school and thank you for continuing to support Canner Nation. We will continue to make this school year the best it can be for all students. Stay safe and healthy and enjoy your Labor Day Weekend.

Sincerely,

Wesley T. Doll

Wesley T. Doll, Ed.D.
Superintendent