

District families,

On Thursday, May 13, the CDC made changes to its [Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#). In short, the updates permit fully vaccinated people to refrain from wearing masks, from physically distancing, or from testing following a known exposure in most situations.

In addition, the Wolf Administration recently announced the [gradual lifting of targeted COVID mitigation orders](#) effective May 17 and May 31, 2021, while stipulating that masking orders will remain in place until 70% of adults in PA are fully vaccinated.

Naturally, many of you are asking what the impact of these changes are on the District's practices and procedures. The answer is that there is no immediate impact as school districts are still awaiting clarifying guidance from the PA Departments of Education and Health. These agencies are meeting today with the goal of providing school guidance early next week. Until that time, we must maintain current practices.

While for some pandemic-related decisions, the District can exercise discretion; for others, our hands are tied. Determining when we must close schools or wear masks are in the latter category. In November, PDE required all public schools in Pennsylvania that wanted to continue in-person instruction (and not move to fully remote learning) to sign an [attestation form](#) requiring that we follow [PDE's guidance for school closures](#) and [masking orders](#).

While we await further guidance, I invite you to read additional information on these topics from PDE and DOH by clicking [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

As always, thank you for your patience and support.

In education,

Steve Kirkpatrick
Superintendent of Schools