



BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Stephen P. Puskar
Superintendent

March 18, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter comes to you as an update and to keep you informed of our ongoing approach to the Covid-19 pandemic. With life all around us appearing to get back to normal and Covid-19 case numbers continuing to remain low, it is easy to forget that the school district continues to take measures to ensure that your child is educated in a safe and healthy environment.

The purpose of this update is to inform you of a change that will begin on Monday, March 21st. On Monday, we will begin the process of removing the protective shields that remain in many parts of our schools. Originally, the shields were put into place in all classrooms as well as the cafeterias to provide an added level of protection for each individual student. As the response to the pandemic evolved, the vaccines were more widely administered and the quarantine guidelines changed, the shields at the middle/high school began to be removed in some areas; however, they remain in all areas at the elementary center. We believe now is an appropriate time to remove the shields in both school buildings.

We recognize that there are varying degrees of concern relative to a parent's comfort level with the pandemic and their child's attendance at school. We want to respond to those concerns by making shields available on a case-by-case basis. Next week, the administration in both school buildings will distribute a link to parents/guardians, where they can then sign up to have shields in place for their child(ren), both in their classrooms and in the cafeteria.

Much like the evolution of the masking mandates and the vaccine efforts, this shift away from shields is one more step in the direction of creating more personal responsibility and choice in response to the pandemic. While a time may come when restrictions return to the schools, for now, we believe we are in a position to make this move.

Should you have any questions or concerns relative to this effort, please feel free to contact your child's principal.