

DECEMBER 11, 2021 IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CDSB

Dear CDSB Parents/Guardians,

We are aware that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has entered an order vacating the Secretary of Health's mandatory masking rule which was applied to all Pennsylvania schools by the Department of Education.

The Supreme Court's Order does not change a school district's ability to require masks based its own determination.

In order to keep schools open, the Central Dauphin School Board voted on August 23, 2021, to require masking in schools and that requirement was incorporated into the District's Health and Safety Plan.

As a result, the District was able to take advantage of PDE's quarantine exceptions and, as a further consequence, for the 2021-2022 school year, the District has been able to keep schools open which is critical to our families.

PDE's quarantine rules remain unaffected by this order, and without masking, the District will very likely be required to quarantine with more regularity that will, in turn, directly affect in person learning.

Here is what the Supreme Court's order also does not affect: 1) the wearing of face masks on transportation, that continue to be required by a federal order from the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC); and 2) the PDE quarantine requirements, which continue in place for now.

There has been no determination by the PIAA as to how it will address masking during interscholastic competition.

COVID and keeping schools open remain critical issues to families. We expect that there will be additional changes to PDE's guidance, which may change how the District will be required to respond.

While the District reviews all relevant data on a daily basis, the District is required by PDE to conduct a six-month review of the Health and Safety Plan in January 2022.

An initial review of the Health and Safety Plan will be on the Board Agenda for the December 20, 2021, School Board meeting. The impact of this Order will be a point of discussion.

Here is what families need to know for Monday: the masking requirement contained in the District's current Health and Safety Plan will stay in place until taken up by the Board. Until that time, students and staff will be expected to remain in compliance.

The District remains committed to exploring all options to order keep students in school and learning in person. We appreciate your support as we continue to work to collaboratively keep students in schools.