

Dear CDSB Parents/Guardians,

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our District has taken action to keep our students in their classrooms as consistently as possible.

The District has made it clear that offering face-to-face in-person learning is a critical part of our mission and we will take the steps necessary to keep our students in school.

This evening, the District has taken another step to ensure our classrooms can consistently remain open.

The Board has voted to **require universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. At this time, masking will not be required outdoors. This is effective Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

The driving factor in this decision is that masking is the mechanism that will keep students learning in-person.

Pursuant to the guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the CDC, by requiring masks to be worn indoors, we can avoid having to quarantine students as frequently as we would have if masks were optional.

We have prepared two short videos explaining what the school year would look like with required masking and with optional masking under the PA DOH and CDC guidance.

[Keeping Students in School](#) (click for the link)

[Close contacts and Contact tracing](#) (click for the link)

At this point, requiring masks to be worn is the key under the state and federal guidance to maintaining a consistent in-person learning environment.

We understand that some members of the CDSB community may disagree with the Board's decision, but please understand that it was made to help keep our kids in school.

Let me be clear, we cannot say with certainty that there will not be interruptions to in-person learning. Our Board, however, has taken this action to minimize those interruptions to the maximum extent possible.

We are very excited to get this school year underway. While wearing a mask in school buildings may not be ideal, it will help to keep our kids in their classrooms and engaged in sports, band, and other extracurricular activities.

We appreciate your cooperation with this, and look forward to a safe, healthy, and productive year!

*Norman J. Miller, Ed.D.*

*Superintendent, Central Dauphin School District*