



DERRY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Gregory A. Ferencak
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September 3, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Tuesday, August 31, 2021, Alison Beam, PA Acting Secretary of Health, ordered a universal mask/face covering mandate indoors of all PK-12 school buildings effective 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The Board of Directors met at their regular meeting on September 2, 2021 and approved that the Derry Area School District will comply with this Order.

In the Order, it states school districts must “require and enforce the requirement that all teachers, children/students, staff, and visitors wear a face covering indoors regardless of vaccination status, except as set forth in Section 3 of the Order”.

The Order defines a “face covering” as: “a covering of the nose and mouth with material that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. A face covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or be improvised from household items, including, but not limited to, scarfs, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.” The Order also lists “alternative to face covering” as: “a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth, extends below the chin and to the ears, and leaves no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield’s headpiece.”

There are exceptions to the universal mask/face covering mandate under Section 3 of the Order and additional information that you can read over at your leisure. I ask that you read over the Order, which can be found under the COVID-19 section of our district website (dasd.us).

As was the case last school year, “mask breaks” will occur throughout the day when physical distancing is possible. As per the Order, masks/face coverings are not required when and individual is: “(1) engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking, or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering; or (2) participating in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals.” A mask/face covering is not required “outdoors or when a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors.”

In closing, I ask for your cooperation with this ever-changing situation. I appreciate your understanding and support as we continue to navigate this crisis together.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Curry
Superintendent

EPC:bkb