



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Sunday, May 16, 2021

Dear Pottsgrove Staff, Students, and Families:

On Thursday, May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced updated guidance that would permit fully vaccinated people to remove masks in most public settings, both indoors and outdoors. Pennsylvania's Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam subsequently announced the Commonwealth's mask order would align with these new recommendations from CDC.

The Montgomery County Superintendents met with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health on Friday, May 14, 2021. Montgomery County will likewise align with CDC guidance permitting fully vaccinated people to remove masks in most public settings.

Finally, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) released the following statement on Friday evening. **“Because most K-12 students in Pennsylvania are not vaccinated and only a few weeks remain in the 2020-21 school year. PDE recommends school entities continue to follow their current mitigation strategies. Remaining consistent in approach will help to ensure the safety and well-being of school communities that may result from significant revisions to existing plans and systems.”**

Therefore, please accept this as official notification that all Pottsgrove School District staff and students will continue to be required to wear masks for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year following PGSD's Health & Safety Plan, with the following exceptions that were amended at the May 11th Board meeting.

- During outdoor recess, students may forgo wearing masks outside. However, all students must continue to wear masks walking to and from recess periods.
- All adults monitoring outdoor recess periods must continue to wear masks.
- Masks are still required for all indoor recess periods by students and staff members.
- Outdoor physical education classes are permitted to remove their masks during physical activities. Masks are to be worn walking to and from the buildings.
- Outdoor activities include but not limited to; recess, field days, intramurals, graduation ceremonies, and other outdoor activities where social distancing is applicable.
- During PIAA athletic practices and competitions, athletes do not need to wear masks while actively engaged in physical activity.
- All athletes and coaching staffs must wear masks on the sidelines; before, during, and after competitions.

Again, I am grateful for the support of the Pottsgrove community for your support and patience that we have all experienced these past fourteen months.

With gratitude,

William R. Shirk, Jr., Ed. D.