



# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137

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Dear Mercer Families,

On November 16, 2021, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania issued a follow-up opinion, which lifted the stay order, ending the Face Covering Order for schools in PA on December 4, 2021. Therefore, beginning Dec. 4, the decision on student and adult face coverings, within the confines of the Mercer Area School District, reverts to a local governmental decision, i.e. Mercer School Board.

Based on the Mercer School District ARP Health and Safety Plan, approved by the School Board on June 21, 2021, the school district will not be implementing a universal masking policy unless required to do so by mandate or order of the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Education, or office of the Governor of PA. Any student or adult within the building that prefers to wear a face covering will be able to do so, however, face coverings will not be required for any student or adult. Please note that until at least January 18, 2022, students and adults are still mandated to wear a face covering while riding on a school bus. *The CDC via the TSA requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation - this includes on school buses operated by public and private school systems.*

Additionally, please know that all PA school districts are required to review their Health and Safety Plans every 6 months. The Mercer School District is planning to review and approve a new Health and Safety Plan for the district at its December 6, 2021 re-organization school board meeting.

If you have a question or if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me in the central office (724-662-5100). I will provide you with the most recent, yet ever changing, information I have at the time.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Rowe, Jr., Ed. D  
Superintendent  
Mercer Area School District