



MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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December 11, 2021

Dear Mercer Families,

On December 10, 2021 the PA Supreme Court affirmed the order of the Commonwealth Court vacating the face covering order issued by the Department of Health in August. Therefore, decision on face coverings within the Mercer Area School District reverts to a local governmental decision, i.e. Mercer School Board.

Based on the recently approved, December 6, 2021, district ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan, beginning immediately, face coverings (masks) are optional for all students and adults within the district's buildings. The district's latest updates to the Health and Safety Plan can be viewed on the district's website, www.mercer.k12.pa.us.

Please note that the federal mandate issued by the Transportation Security Authority (TSA) has extended the face covering requirement until March 18, 2022. Therefore, students and adults are still mandated to wear a face covering while riding on a school bus.

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