

Forest Hills School District



David L. Lehman
Superintendent of Schools

September 3, 2021

Dear Rangers,

These are definitely extraordinary times. The Forest Hills School District's primary goal is to provide all students with face-to-face instruction in a safe manner. As you are well aware, Pennsylvania has enacted an order reinstating the mask mandate. The order can be found [here](#). This order impacts all K-12 public and private schools in Pennsylvania. This is a legal order under the Disease Prevention and Control Law, and school entities are required to comply. The good news with this newly enacted order is that student quarantines and contact tracing scenarios should be greatly reduced by the proper wearing of a face covering. This would reduce disruptions to the school calendar, learners' experiences, and extracurricular activities.

In accordance with this mandate, beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2021, Pennsylvania teachers, students, staff, and visitors working, attending, or visiting school entities will be required to wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status, unless an exception applies under Section 3 of the Order. Under Section 3 of this Order the following mask wearing exceptions are outlined:

- If wearing a face covering while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
- When necessary to confirm the individual's identity.
- When working alone and isolated from interaction with other people with little or no expectation of in-person interaction.
- If an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age.
- When an 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.
- When a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors.

For students who may be eligible for the mask exemption, attached you will find the Student Face Masks/Coverings Exemption Request. If you would like to exercise this Exemption Request, please complete the form and provide a Doctor's excuse for the eligibility of the exemption. If your child has a documented medical or mental health condition that makes it unreasonable to maintain a face covering throughout the day, the District will make reasonable accommodations as needed on a case-by-case basis. The Exemption Form can be found [here](#).

The proper wearing of masks will remain in effect on school transportation in accordance with the Federal mandate. This includes extracurricular transportation. Although all schools and school vehicles will maintain a supply of masks for student use, students are strongly encouraged to provide their own masks/face covering.

We appreciate the community's willingness to adapt to maintain high health standards and to ensure in-person learning. Your continued support and adherence to recommendations, such as staying home when you or your child is ill or experiencing flu-like symptoms, helps with our collective goal of keeping students in school. We appreciate that you recognize the importance and value of face-to-face instruction. As Wednesday's weather incident demonstrated, we live in a strong Ranger community that has always placed "R" students and learning at the forefront. We intend to resume optional masking as soon as the mask order is lifted.

Sincerely,



Dr. David L. Lehman
Superintendent of Schools

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