



FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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All districts in Pennsylvania received a mask order and associated documents on August 31, 2021. This order applies to all indoor buildings and busses but it does not apply when outside or when involved in physical activity inside or outside. We must comply with this order starting September 7, 2021. There are exceptions listed in the order you can find in section 3. We will also provide mask breaks throughout the day as we did last year. Our solicitor's legal opinion is as follows:

"The August 31, 2021 Order by the PA DOH is within the scope of the Department's statutory authority and is binding on school districts. Violations of the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955 subject the person who violates the Act or any regulation to a summary criminal charge for each offense. Refusal to take reasonable efforts to enforce the masking order may result in criminal charges. However, even if there were no possibility of criminal charges, my recommendation would still be to follow the Order. That is the rule of law which we are to follow in the United States."

I am well aware that many people in this community will have opinions about the order for or against. But it is also very evident from my past experiences, we will all do our part to keep the focus on students. Please channel your support, suggestions, and concerns to the Secretary of Health, PDE, and Governor concerning this order. The Fairfield Area School District, school board and administration do not have the authority to modify the order or utilize the Health and Safety plan to circumvent the laws without the potential for the school district and Superintendent to face financial and legal consequences.

If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impeded breathing, a mental health condition, or disability please complete the exception form provided here and return it to the nurse in your child's school. All individuals must begin wearing face coverings on September 7, 2021. Once you get the exemption completed and turned into the school nurse you may come go without a mask. Please remember that if your child goes with the exemption and would come in close contact with a positive COVID case that they would need to quarantine.

For families interested in virtual learning please contact Mrs. Kayla Martin at martink@fairfield.k12.pa.us or call 717-642-2882.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Michael Adamek