



Avella Area School District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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December 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The PA Supreme Court has overturned Governor Wolf's mask mandate in public schools on December 10, 2021. Due to this decision there is no longer a statewide requirement to wear masks in public schools. Therefore, Avella Area School District will return to following our Board approved Health and Safety Plan. As a result, **Avella Area School District will strongly recommend, but no longer require students or staff to wear face coverings on school grounds beginning Monday, December 13, 2021.**

Avella has followed the CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines and requirements, as well as orders from Governor Tom Wolf. Please be aware that if additional mandates come out of Harrisburg, Avella Area School District will continue to follow the requirements as directed from the State and send updates as they are received.

Please be aware that if you choose for your child to not wear a mask, this decision may increase their likelihood of having to quarantine. Requiring students to wear a mask reduced the social distance from six feet or less to three feet or less for 15 minutes to be considered a close contact. If a student is not wearing a mask, the social distance once again increases to 6 feet or less for 15 minutes to be considered a close contact.

The mask mandate is still in effect for transportation, as this is a Federal Masking Order. Therefore, students are still required to wear a face covering while riding district transportation.

Continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Cyril Walther, Superintendent
Avella Area School District