



Avella Area School District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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Hello,

This is Cyril Walther, Superintendent of Avella Area School District, with a message for our families.

Avella Area School District Board of School Directors and Administration strongly believes in our parent's right to choose what is best for their children. Unfortunately, the ability to make this choice was removed from local control by Governor Wolf announcing the new masking order from the Secretary of Health on August 31, 2021. Beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2021, All staff, students, visitors and indoor sports spectators will be required to wear a mask or face shield when indoors. Cloth masks are preferred, but if a face shield is worn, it must fit securely against the forehead and come to the chin.

Students will be allowed a mask break during each period of their day. Students will also be allowed to remove masks to eat and drink. In addition, children will not need to wear a mask when they are engaged in outdoor activities, such as recess or an outdoor class. Students will also not be required to wear masks during active play indoors, such as during gym or a sporting event. Spectators are not required to wear a mask during outdoor events.

Masks will continue to be required on school transportation as this is a federal order.

Section 3 of the Mask Order from the Secretary of Health lists exemptions for students, such as a medical condition, if a mask were to exasperate a condition, mental health reasons or a disability. If you believe an exemption may apply to your child, please visit our district website, under District News, for forms to request a mask exemption.

We also wanted to make you aware that the close contact definition has changed and now excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student were wearing a mask correctly.

If both the positive individual and close contact were wearing a mask, then the close contact does not need to quarantine after contact with someone who has Covid-19, unless they were to develop symptoms.

Thank You