



Avella Area School District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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July 14, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The updated order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, requiring universal face coverings was lifted on June 28, 2021. There is no longer a statewide requirement to wear masks. As a result, **Avella Area School District will recommend but no longer require students or staff to wear face coverings on school grounds.**

Avella has followed the CDC and PA Department of Health Guidelines and requirements, as well as orders from Governor Tom Wolf. Avella will continue to follow these requirements as we navigate through the upcoming school year. Please be aware that we are being told additional guidance is coming from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Once this information is received, we will share it with you.

1. Beginning with the start of school on August 25, 2021, Avella students will be reporting to in-person learning, five days a week, on their regular schedules.
2. Avella **will not** require students or staff to be vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus to attend school.
3. Avella will not require face coverings/masks to return to in-person learning. Although masks will not be required, Avella will support your personal decision to have your child(ren) wear masks while in school.
4. There is a Federal order requiring masks on public transportation regardless of whether an individual has been vaccinated. School buses fall into this category. Our students will be required to wear masks while on the school bus and then may remove the mask when they enter school if they choose. If this order is lifted, you will be notified.
5. Social distancing in school has been reduced from six to three feet. Therefore, student desks and cafeteria seating will be closer together than they were last school year.
6. The Federal Government mandated that all students are eligible to receive a free breakfast and lunch each school day. This is the same as last school year.

Be aware that the PA Department of Health and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Education may change the face-covering mandate in the future. Avella Area School District will continue to follow the requirements as directed from the State and send updates as they are received.

We look forward to seeing students back in our classrooms this Fall. Continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Cyril Walther, Superintendent
Avella Area School District