



December 2, 2021

Dear Avonworth School Community,

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving break.

On August 31, 2021, the Acting PA Secretary of Health signed an order requiring face coverings to be worn in all school entities. On November 16, 2021, the PA Commonwealth Court ruled that the order was unlawful due to improper steps taken to put the order in place. The PA Commonwealth Court ruling was to end the order on December 4, 2021. However, on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, the PA Supreme Court issued a ruling that requires all schools in the commonwealth to maintain masking guidelines until the Court hears oral arguments on December 8, 2021.

Regardless of any decision made by the PA Supreme Court regarding the Acting PA Secretary of Health's masking order, the District's Board-approved Health & Safety Plan remains in place for our District. Universal masking is a mitigation measure in the District's current Health & Safety Plan and will remain in place at this time.

At the November 29, 2021 School Board meeting, I provided a COVID update for our Board of School Directors and community. This update outlines the current impact of COVID in Allegheny County, in our schools, and a recommendation for moving forward. Please use the link below to access the slides from this presentation if you would like to review them.

We will continue to monitor the impact of COVID in the County, in our schools, and rely on guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department, CDC, and the health professionals on our District's COVID Working Group.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to navigate this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Hadley, Ed.D.
Superintendent

[Link to Slides](#)