

Shaler Area School District

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Dear Shaler Area families,

As you may have heard reported in the news, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the Acting Secretary of Health's school masking order, effective yesterday, December 10, 2021. Although the state masking order for schools has ended, Shaler Area School District will continue to follow its approved [Health and Safety Plan](#), which requires universal masking for all K-12 students and staff when in an indoor setting, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, all visitors are required to wear a mask or face covering when indoors at any Shaler Area building or facility for any reason, including to attend meetings, events, or athletic activities.

As per the federal order, all students, staff, and drivers continue to be required to wear masks on school transportation. Based on the CDC's current recommendations, masks are not needed outdoors.

Please note that the elimination of the statewide school mask requirement does not change how districts respond to COVID-19 cases in schools, address outbreaks, or report data to the PA Department of Health (DOH). Shaler Area will continue to follow the [guidance outlined by the state Department of Education](#) for responding to COVID-19 cases in our schools, which includes quarantine and isolation procedures. When a positive COVID-19 case occurs in the district, we continue to update our district's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

The district plans to continue to monitor the guidelines and evaluate this determination based upon transmission rates within the school district and Allegheny County.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to ensure a safe learning environment for our students and staff this school year.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Aiken, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Bryan O'Black, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent