

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the Acting Secretary of Health's school masking order, effective today, December 10, 2021.

Please note that this decision does not impact the federal directive [requiring all passengers and drivers to wear a mask on school buses](#), including on buses operated by public and private school systems; these requirements remain in effect. It also does not impact the federal masking mandate issued for Head Start and Early Head Start grantees.

School entities still possess the authority and are encouraged to require masks in their facilities as recommended by CDC. Masking in school settings minimizes the spread of COVID-19, particularly in settings where individuals and students are not vaccinated, and allows for reduced quarantining to keep individual students and staff in school.

Finally, the elimination of the statewide PreK-12 school mask requirement **does not** change how schools respond to COVID-19 cases in schools, address outbreaks, or report data to the PA Department of Health (DOH). Schools should continue to refer to the guidance contained [here](#).

We recognize that developments around the masking order have created challenges for you during a very difficult time. We will provide additional information in the days ahead but wanted to share this initial news as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Noe

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