



Millville Area School District

Stronger **TOGETHER**....**Quaker STRONG!**

Dear Millville Families,

September 3, 2021

The topic of masking and increasing mitigation strategies inspires very strong feelings and debate across our school community. However, in response to the increasing numbers of faculty, staff, and students who have been compelled to quarantine due to close contact with positive cases or isolate due to illness, the Millville Area School District will be implementing changes to its 2021-22 School Health and Safety Plan effective September 7, 2021. Please understand the measures that will be implemented are being undertaken out of an abundance of caution; to reduce the transmission of COVID-19; and most importantly, to maintain continuity of Face-to-Face instruction within our schools (The MASD 2021-22 Health and Safety Plan is available upon the district website for public review).

Upon return to school on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, faculty, staff, students, and visitors shall wear an appropriate face covering when in district buildings regardless of vaccination status. The decision to move forward with masking within our schools has **not** only been motivated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health's recent masking mandate, but rather, **the district's action is being undertaken in response to the outbreak within our community schools.** To date, the MASD has had 78 faculty, staff, and students who have had to quarantine due to close contact with a COVID-19 positive case or have had to isolate due to being confirmed positive for COVID-19.

When adhering to the quarantining guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention upon which the MASD's Health and Safety Plan is based, when a vaccinated individual is exposed to a COVID-19 positive case, the exposed individual must mask for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. In the event that an unvaccinated individual has close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, they have to quarantine for 7-10 days. **However, in the event that a vaccinated or unvaccinated individual is masked when they come in contact with a masked positive case, the exposed individual is **NOT required to quarantine.** It is this fact which has underscored the district's decision to require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors who enter our schools to wear an appropriate face covering (Specific guidance regarding face coverings and compliance is outlined within the 2021-2022 MASD Health and Safety Plan located upon the district website).**

While the MASD does not wish to impose mitigation strategies upon district stakeholders that increase frustration and COVID fatigue, the district is endeavoring to **keep OUR schools open, keep OUR students in classrooms where they undoubtedly learn best, and keep OUR teachers and staff healthy so that they can continue to provide OUR students with high quality educational programming.**

The MASD will continue to monitor the regional and community transmission rates and modify our plan and our district's response accordingly.

Your cooperation and understanding is very much appreciated,

Joseph R. Rasmus
Superintendent of Schools

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"Providing a high-quality, rigorous, and relevant 21st century education for ALL students."

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Elementary Principal

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