

WALLINGFORD  SWARTHMORE
SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Families,

I hope this email finds you in good health and good spirits. Yesterday began our first day of ESY, and I was so happy to welcome back our wonderful students and staff.

I wanted to provide you with some information that Superintendents across the County received recently from [Mr. Noe Ortega](#), Secretary of Education. Mr. Ortega outlined several updates and a critical reminder concerning masking on public transportation and school buses. In that communication, he states:

- Moving forward, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) plan to align practices and policies for safely operating schools with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additional health guidance can be found [<here>](#).
- Each Local Education Agency (LEA) must have a health and safety plan that is in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for reopening and operation of school facilities. While the current [CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#) was last updated on May 15, 2021, we anticipate another update to their guidance soon.
- LEAs are to review their plans at least every six months or whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools.

The most critical information received, which will impact our families using our transportation services, relates to the [Federal order issued in January 2021](#). This requires individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face masks when on public transportation, including **school buses operated by the public-private school systems**. Though the [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#) was lifted on June 28, 2021, the Federal order for wearing face masks on public transportation is still in effect.

Therefore, effective immediately, students who are attending district-sponsored summer activities must wear a face mask while being transported by district transportation. Excluding transportation, the district will continue to support all individuals who prefer to wear a mask and encourages those individuals who have not been vaccinated to wear a mask.

Our bus drivers have been informed of this change and will have extra masks in the event students do not have one.

At our next scheduled board meeting on July 19th, we will update our [Health and Safety Plan](#) to reflect this Federal masking order.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at wmarseille@wssd.org.

Sincerely,

Wagner Marseille, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools