

## FAQ's – December 20, 2021

1. How long will masks be required in schools?  
***As of December 10, 2021, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the Acting Secretary of Health's school masking Order terminating this requirement. The wearing of masks/face shields is optional for all students, staff, and visitors in the Berlin Brothersvalley School District.***
2. Are students still required to wear face coverings on the busses?  
***Section 5 of the Order states: "This Order shall not impact the obligation of any School Entity to comply with requirements issued by the CDC, including requirements for masking on public transportation conveyances, such as school district transportation."***
3. If my child/student wears a face covering, while in the school, will they be required to quarantine?  
***Children/students in the K-12 classroom setting who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student and both the infected student and exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting face coverings the entire time, they will not be required to quarantine.***  
***Scenario: If a child/student who is wearing a face covering sits next to an infected student who is not wearing a face covering, this would result in both students being quarantined.***

**Please review the following information from Secretary of Education, Noe Ortega.**

**From:** "ED, Secretary of Ed Res Acct" <[ra-educationsecretary@pa.gov](mailto:ra-educationsecretary@pa.gov)>

**Subject:** Information Regarding PA Supreme Court Decision

**Date:** December 10, 2021 at 5:46:30 PM EST

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

**Noe Ortega, Ph.D.** | Secretary of Education