



SUSQUEHANNA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Superintendent of Schools

BRENT SODEN
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Parents/Guardians,

Greetings and Happy Holidays! The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a ruling on Friday that Acting Secretary of Health Beam did not have the authority to issue the masking mandate to all of Pennsylvania's public schools in September. The ruling ends the state mandate for masks inside of public schools, but it **does not end** the Susquehanna Community School District's mandate for indoor masking or masking while using school district transportation. Our school district's health and safety plan calls for mandatory indoor masking as long as Susquehanna County is in the HIGH Phase of Covid-19 transmission, which it currently is. Additionally, the federal transportation order for masking on all public transportation, which includes all school district contracted and/or owned vehicles, is still in effect until at least March of 2022. Again, indoor masking is still fully in effect at Susquehanna Community until Susquehanna County is out of the High Phase of Covid-19 transmission.

Additionally, the school district is working to reduce the lost instructional time that occurs when an individual has been identified as a close contact to someone with Covid-19. Last week the district applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Health to participate in the Test To Stay (TTS) Program. Under this program, close contacts without any symptoms of Covid-19 would be allowed to stay in school as long as they submit to two Covid-19 tests within the first eight days of being exposed to a person with Covid-19. The district is excited about the potential of this program to keep students identified as close contacts in school and receiving face-to-face instruction. Once approval is granted, the district will provide you with more detailed information about this program and how to enroll your child in the program.

Thank you,

Bronson Stone,
Superintendent of Schools