



Interim Superintendent Ann Kearney
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KANE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 2, 2021

Dear KASD Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents/Guardians and Community,

On Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 1:47 P.M., Governor Wolf and Allison Beam, the Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) have issued an order for a MASK MANDATE to begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Rich Askey, the PSEA (Pennsylvania State Education Association) noted several months ago that our priority in public education should be to have a safe return to in-person instruction. He stated that masking up in all our schools would be a simple and proven way to make this our 2021-22 reality.

The DOH order states, "Each teacher, child/student, staff, or visitor working, attending, or visiting a School Entity shall wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status, except as set for in Section 3: Exceptions to Covering Requirement

SECTION 3:

The following are exceptions to the face covering requirements in Section 2. All alternatives to a face covering, including the use of a face shield, should be exhausted before an individual is exempted from this Order.

- A. If wearing a face covering while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- B. If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
- C. When necessary, to confirm the individual's identity.
- D. When working alone and isolated from interaction with other people with little or no expectation of in-person interaction.
- E. If an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- F. When the individual is under two (2) years of age.
- G. When an individual is:

(1) Engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking, or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering; or

(2) Participating in high intensity aerobic or anerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals.

H. When a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors.

Here is what it means in simple terms:

1. Beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2021 students, staff and visitors are mandated to wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status.
2. Student athletes engaged in competition are NOT required to wear face coverings indoors or outdoors while engaged in practice or competition.
3. Visitors/Spectators outdoors ARE NOT REQUIRED to wear face coverings. Visitors/Spectators indoors ARE REQUIRED to wear face coverings.
4. As a result of this order, students will no longer need to be excluded for being a close contact (3-6ft) of a positive student/staff in the school setting if BOTH the infected individual and exposed individual in school were correctly and consistently wearing a face covering for the entire time. Close contacts in lunch will be excluded because students are not required to wear face coverings while eating. Schools will implement social distancing during lunch where it is possible.
5. If parents/guardians wish to seek an exclusion from the Order/Mandate, contact the Office of Student Services at 814-837-9570 Ext. 1216 for specific instructions and forms necessary for compliance.

The district goal has been consistent in working cooperatively with parents/guardians, students, and the staff to keep our schools open and provide a safe learning environment.

We appreciate your cooperation and help to achieve this in 2021-22 for your student(s). It is possible to do this with everyone's positive attitude and efforts. This is for the safety of your children and families, our faculty, and staff, and is a DOH mandate.

Let's all have pride in the Kane Area School District and set a good example for our children and community.

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna M. Kearney".

Interim Superintendent
KASD