

November 11, 2021

MCA Learning Community -

As you may have heard in the last 24 hours the Commonwealth Court voided the Pennsylvania Department of Health masking order. A short time later the Governor's council filed an appeal asking for a stay to the court's ruling - which went into effect.

What does this mean for our school district?

Our district Health and Safety Plan still mandates masks for students at Mount Carmel Area. We will continue to follow our health and safety plan and continue to mandate masks in all buildings for all students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. We expect more information to be provided in the coming days on this ruling. We made this decision on masking as to have the least amount of school interruption as possible due to the current contact tracing guidelines.

As mentioned in earlier messages to our community - COVID positive numbers within our district are on the rise. Please continue to follow protocols mentioned in previous school communications that include:

- Continue daily morning screenings before sending your child to school. (Daily Screening Tool:<http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MCA-DAILY-SCREENING-TOOL.pdf>)
- Keep your child at home if they are sick or exhibiting COVID symptoms.
- Keep your child home if a household member is positive or is awaiting test results.
- Remember to check in with your building nurse before your child returns to school following quarantine from being positive.

Our district will continue to communicate with all students/families that would be close contacts of positive cases in our buildings. We will continue to update our COVID positive case tracker daily - which is found on our main school district website.

Please refer to our November 8th Health Update

<http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/november-8-alert-now.pdf> for more information on the vaccine for students aged 5 to 11 and boosters for those already vaccinated.

Please continue to be safe.

Pete Cheddar

