



782 Springdale Drive, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341 • Phone: 484-266-1000 • www.wcasd.net

August 24, 2021

Dear WCASD Families,

I hope this email finds you enjoying the last remaining days of summer. It's hard to believe it went by so quickly, but during this time, we have been working hard to prepare for the start of school on Monday, August 30.

Last night, the West Chester Area School District Board of Directors [approved the updated Health and Safety Plan](#), which includes a mask requirement for students and staff members inside all district buildings when Chester County's COVID rates are "moderate" or higher (see chart at the end of this letter.) As of August 20, 2021, Chester County's transmission rate is listed as 'substantial' [according to the Chester County COVID-19 Monitoring Report](#). We recognize this is not the ideal way to start the school year. However, we believe masks, along with other mitigation efforts, will provide us the best chance to maintain in-person instruction as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Mask exceptions may be granted for a medical condition and/or disability with a doctor's note, or for religious reasons with a letter from a religious leader or clergy. In the event a student refuses to wear a mask we will address the matter compassionately but firmly. It is my sincere hope that we can work together to avoid any such situation.

We have created a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website to answer any questions you may have regarding masks, contact tracing, social distancing, and transportation. Please review these FAQs before the start of school. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to your building principal.

We have also updated all [COVID-19 related information](#) on our website. You will find the district's updated Health and Safety Plan, along with links to guidelines and considerations research reports from the Chester County Health Department, PA Department of Health, CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and other reputable sources.

Lastly, please make sure to use the [Daily Home Screening for Students](#) each day before sending your child to school. We will be sending weekly reminders to do so.

Every school year begins with excitement and a certain degree of anxiousness. This year is no different. I firmly believe that we can work together to provide every student in the West Chester Area School District with the confidence and security to start this school year off right and achieve success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Sokolowski, Superintendent

County Level Transmission	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status K-12
Low	<10	AND	<5 %	Recommended
Moderate	10-49	OR	5 % - 7.9 %	Required
Substantial	50-99	OR	8 % - 9.99 %	Required
Very High	≥100	OR	≥10 %	Required