



NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 6, 2021

Dear Ranger Families: _____,

On August 31, 2021 the Pennsylvania Department of Health issued a universal mask mandate for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors for K-12 schools. Our school district is required to follow that mandate.

In section 4 of the order it states:

A School Entity must:

- 1. Require and enforce the requirement that all teachers, children/students, staff, and visitors (subject to the exceptions in Section 3) wear a face covering indoors, regardless of whether this Order is reflected in a school entity's Health and Safety Plan.**
- 2. Provide reasonable accommodations for individuals who state they have a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the person to maintain a face covering.**

We are aware that there may be specific situations where a student might have a medical reason to avoid mask usage. In section 3 of the order it allows a student to request an exemption for the following:

- 1. 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.**

In order to be granted an exemption the district is asking for you to fill out the COVID19 mask exemption form found on our web page and a link to it through our Northwest APP. In this form it will explain what the district will need to grant a mask exemption.

The Board of Education and administration have worked tirelessly to do what is in the best interests of our school community. Please understand that it is now out of our hands and we are required to enforce the mandate to the best of our ability. We must follow the law and we ask for your continued cooperation in that regard. In doing so, we are setting the best possible example for our students and helping to ensure that we can continue with full 5-day, in-person instruction for all of our students.

Please contact your building administrator if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Long Jr.