

## UPDATE ON ORDER OF FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOL ENTITIES

September 1, 2021

Dear CACS Families,

On Wednesday, August 31, 2021, the PA Secretary of Health issued the “Order of Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Face Coverings in School Entities.” This 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. This order applies to public PreK-12 schools, brick and mortar or cyber charter schools, private and parochial schools, career and technical centers, intermediate units, etc.

Prior to this order, CACS has allowed families to choose what they feel is best for their student. This order negates that choice. CACS is required to follow this order as an educational agency that is registered with the state of Pennsylvania. Starting Tuesday, September 7, 2021, all staff and students will be required to wear a face covering (mask or face shield) while inside the CACS building. At this point, the order does not apply to staff and students outside of the school building.

Exceptions to the covering requirement will include: while eating and drinking or participating in high intensity aerobic or anerobic activities (including indoor and outdoor recess/gym) while in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain physical distance of six feet from all other individual. CACS Staff will be monitoring “face-covering breaks” and are encouraged to take students outside (for academic and non-academic time) as much as possible.

We are very discouraged and disheartened that the Secretary of Health has taken this step, and we share in the frustration this causes. As a private school, we have no alternative and are still legally bound to uphold the order given by the Secretary of Health. As parents, please recognize that this decision is not being made at a school level, but instead, the order is being handed down from a state level. We at CACS do not have the ability to make a change. If you feel strongly about seeing change happen, we encourage you to pursue it on a state level.

We appreciate your continued patience, support, and prayers as we navigate through the numerous changes continually unfolding during these unprecedented times. As always, please feel free to reach out to us with any question or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Manno  
CACS Administrator