



BETHEL PARK

SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 10, 2021

Dear Bethel Park School District Families,

Re: BPSD to Continue to Require Masks in All District Facilities

Earlier today, the [Commonwealth Court issued a ruling voiding Acting Secretary Beam's school mask order](#). The state has since filed an appeal, which has triggered a stay of the Court's ruling and keeps the order in effect.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) **has instructed schools to continue to observe the school masking order throughout the duration of the court's proceedings**. The District will continue to monitor the legal proceedings and expects more information to avail itself in the coming weeks.

It is important to note that even if the Commonwealth Court's ruling is upheld, it simply means that Pennsylvania school districts will revert to their own Health and Safety Plans. [Bethel Park School District's Health and Safety Plan](#), approved by the Board of School Directors on Aug. 23, 2021, **mandated masks for everyone in school buildings and structures for at least the entirety of the first semester**.

Earlier this week, Governor Tom Wolf [announced that on January 17, 2022, it is anticipated that the commonwealth's K-12 school mask requirement will return to local control](#).

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding as we all do our best to navigate this complicated and rapidly evolving landscape.

Sincerely,

James Walsh, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Bethel Park School District