



Good evening!

Just a brief update about the PA Mask Order Stay as of this evening....

Yesterday, November 16, the Commonwealth Court, issued a ruling, stating the PA DoH face covering order must end on December 4, reversing the automatic stay triggered when Gov. Tom Wolf appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court last week on Nov. 10. This means that unless there is further legal action from the Governor or courts, the PA Department of Health Face Covering Order for K-12 schools will end on December 4, 2021.

However, the Governor's appeal is also still pending before the State Supreme Court, a date for that hearing is scheduled for December 8, 2021. Keep in mind that there are multiple pathways to overturn this most recent decision. I will let you know if this decision is overturned, and I will send updates as I get them.

If this all sounds confusing, it is. I'm simply trying to keep you informed of the most recent decision from the state level. The legal battles continue, and information for schools continues to change rapidly, as it has during this entire pandemic. But, as of right now, unless further legal action occurs before December 4, the Face Covering Order from the PA Department of Health will be lifted at that time. If so, our District will revert to our Board-approved, Health and Safety plan, making masks optional effective December 05, 2021.

Barring any late breaking news tomorrow, I'll send my usual email with a case count update on Friday. I hope you and your family have a terrific Thursday!

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford  
Superintendent  
Bellefonte Area School District