



Conestoga Valley School District  
2110 Horseshoe Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601



September 7, 2021

Dear CV Families,

On Wednesday, August 31, 2021, the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health issued a facial covering order for school entities, including Pre-K to 12 public schools. We are aware of the confusion, polarization and concern over the Secretary's Order. Until proven otherwise through the court system, we are working under the premise that the Order is lawful and that we must follow established guidelines.

Please note that there are specific exceptions to the order noted in Section 3 of the Order. A majority of the exceptions are related to health or disability-based reasons. Our practice in addressing those types of exceptions is guided by Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 of the Regulations of the State Board of Education, along with the Federal Office for Civil Rights within the United States Department of Education. Conestoga Valley School District must evaluate all available evidence to determine whether a child has a medical condition or disability that would entitle the child to the protections of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such, any health or disability-based exemption (non-wearing of masks) for a student must be documented in a Section 504 accommodation plan or an IEP, both of which require a certified licensed medical professional substantiation of a condition that requires an accommodation.

If a parent cannot or will not provide that substantiation, the school is obligated to provide the evaluation to substantiate the condition and accommodations needed. However, the absence of such information could impair and possibly delay the ability of the District to evaluate the exemption request.

If a parent or guardian believes that their child meets the medical exceptions outlined in the Order, we request that the parent or guardian provide in writing that their child be exempt from mask wearing along with medical documentation of the impairment. Providing such documentation will greatly assist and speed the process for mask exemptions.

Thank you in advance for working with us as we support you in accessing a mask exemption.

Sincerely,

Dave Zuilkoski, EdD  
Superintendent