



Conestoga Valley School District
2110 Horseshoe Road
Lancaster, PA 17601



December 2, 2021

CV Community –

On Tuesday, November 30, 2021, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court reinstated the mask mandate temporarily until they have the opportunity to hear arguments on the case on December 8, 2021. What this Supreme Court ruling did, in essence, was extend the stay from the Commonwealth Court's December 4, 2021 deadline until the Supreme Court has a chance to hear the case.

This most recent ruling does not affect us in a practical sense; our faculty, staff, students and visitors will still have to wear a face covering while in CV buildings. Just as important, what also has not changed is the right for parents to follow the 504 Plan/IEP process to have their child(ren) opt out of the mandate. (Please see your child(ren)'s building principal for more information.)

I've been preaching patience, grace, flexibility and understanding for over a year and half now. We are very close to a final answer regarding the State's mandate on mask wearing. If the Supreme Court rules that the mandate is invalid, we will continue to follow the Health and Safety Plan and go back to masks optional; if the Court rules that the mandate is valid, we will continue to follow the Health and Safety Plan and masks will remain mandatory. Keep in mind that the Governor has set January 17, 2022, as the day the mandate expires. Regardless of the ruling, and more importantly as in the past and right now, parents have the right to request the 504 Plan/IEP process for their child(ren) to opt out of the mask mandate. As we have stated, once that process is initiated, the child does not have to wear a face covering while the process is in progress.

Let us continue to focus on importance of keeping our children in school and on providing meaningful educational experiences for each and every one of them every day.

Dave Zuilkoski, EdD
Superintendent