



Chartiers-Houston School District

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Dr. Gary Peiffer
Superintendent
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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

In the past 24 hours, there has been much excitement and confusion regarding the Commonwealth Court's decision to countermand the mask mandate issued by Secretary Bream in September. The court stated that the mask mandate issued by Acting Secretary Alison Bream did not comply with the state's laws about reviewing and approving regulations and was adopted without an existing disaster emergency declared by the governor.

Within hours of that decision, however, the Governor appealed Commonwealth Court's ruling. Based on the Pennsylvania Rule of Appellate Procedure, as soon as that appeal was filed the court decision to throw out the mask mandate was put on hold. This means that the mask mandate is still in place while the appeal process is taking place. Because the appeal is being made of a Commonwealth Agency, the appeal puts the court's decision on hold. As Chartiers-Houston is a public school and beholden to the laws of the Commonwealth, we have to adhere to the appeal process and continue to require masks of students and staff while that appeal process plays out. Students and Staff will have to continue to wear masks when they return to class on Friday and onward while the appeal process takes place.

Should the Governor lose the appeal, the District will revert to the vote it took on masks prior to the mandate being issued, which was that masks would be optional for students and staff. We recognize that this stay of the Commonwealth Court's decision is frustrating for many and we look forward to the day when we will no longer be required to wear masks as a health safety precaution to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Until that time, as a state public school, we are required to abide by the legal rulings and processes established in the Commonwealth.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding with this issue.

Sincerely,


Dr. Gary Peiffer
Superintendent