



07/08/21

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Federal Order Still Requires Face Masks on School Buses

On July 6, 2021, schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were informed/provided clarification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the issue of masking guidelines specifically related to school buses operated by public schools:

Pursuant to a federal order issued on January 29, 2021 the CDC requires that,

“...passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the CDC’s Order...A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.”

(To date, this order has not been rescinded and remains in place.)

[Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs / CDC](#)

In order to align with this federal requirement, SSD must again require everyone to wear an approved face mask on our buses, beginning July 12, 2021. Exceptions to this order include the following:

- while eating, drinking, or taking medication for brief periods of time;
- while communicating for brief periods of time with a person who is hearing impaired when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- if unconscious (for reasons other than sleeping), incapacitated, unable to be awakened, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance;
- when experiencing difficulty breathing or shortness of breath or feeling winded, until able to resume normal breathing with the mask; when vomiting until vomiting ceases; or if wearing a mask interferes with necessary medical care such as supplemental oxygen administered via an oxygen mask.
- A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*);
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

If your child fits one of these exceptions, please fill out a Student Face-Covering Exemption Request Form at the link below and submit it to your child’s building principal:

[Student Face-Covering Exemption \(Transportation\) Form](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support of the health and safety of our students and staff.