



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Patrik D. Williams, Superintendent

August 10, 2021

Dear Smyrna, Clayton and Kenton Families,

Today, in light of the rising rate of COVID infections here in the State of Delaware, the Governor's Office released the following update to the current Public Health Emergency Order in effect:

*Governor John Carney on Tuesday announced that everyone kindergarten-age and older in K-12 schools and child care homes and centers must wear face coverings indoors effective on Monday, August 16 – regardless of vaccination status. The requirement covers both public and private schools in Delaware. Child care centers and homes are strongly encouraged to require masks for children 2 years old to kindergarten inside their facilities to prevent spread of COVID-19. Children younger than 2 years old should not wear masks due to risk of suffocation.*

*The statewide mask requirement in schools, which will be formalized later this week, is consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and will help all Delaware students safely return to classrooms full-time this fall for the 2021-2022 school year. Children younger than 12 remain ineligible for COVID-19 vaccination at this time.*

This executive regulation carries the weight of law and has been crafted in concert with the Delaware Department of Justice. Therefore, *effective Monday, August 16, 2021*, as required, the Smyrna School District will be in full compliance. This regulation will remain in effect until modified or lifted by Governor Carney and will be strictly enforced when students return to our schools for in-person instruction, beginning Wednesday, September 8, 2021. All staff, students and visitors to any of our schools or buildings will be required to wear a face mask upon entry, and no one will be permitted to enter without one. While all indoor school activities, including instruction, will require face masks, staff, students and visitors will not be required to wear them at any time when outside.

Please make the necessary adjustments to your back-to-school planning at this time so that we may continue to prepare for our return to five-day weekly in-person instruction. As part of your planning, please follow the guidance of Governor Carney, the Delaware Division of Public Health, and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency who strongly recommend that all eligible Delawareans become fully vaccinated, particularly now, as the Delta variant poses a much higher rate of spread than earlier COVID strains, even among children. The vaccination is the most effective means we have as a community to dramatically reduce the rate of infections so that we may all return to some semblance of normalcy.

Sincerely,

Patrik Williams  
Superintendent