



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Patrik D. Williams, Superintendent

July 8, 2021

Dear Smyrna, Clayton and Kenton Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well this summer. I am sending you a brief update today regarding our district's board-approved position on a topic about which many have queried, speculated and even fretted: face coverings in schools and offices.

As we all know, Governor Carney's declared State of Emergency in response to the pandemic expires on July 13, 2021. As a result, while the Governor's Office, the Department of Education, the Division of Public Health, and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency will continue to provide school-based guidance in an effort to keep all of us safe, districts and communities will soon be in a position to make local decisions in response to COVID. Consequently, given that:

The Governor-declared State of Emergency expires on July 13, 2021;
The State of Delaware has reached its goal of vaccinating 70% of the population with at least one dose of the COVID vaccine;
Families are now able to make choices for themselves and their children regarding face coverings in nearly all facets of society;

Barring future state regulations or Governor-declared orders to the contrary, the Smyrna School District Board of Education and Administration have officially adopted the following position regarding face coverings, beginning July 14, 2021:

The State of Delaware recommends the continued wearing of face coverings when students are present inside schools and offices once the Delaware State of Emergency expires on July 13th. Therefore, all staff and students who have not received the full dose of the COVID vaccine are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings to mitigate their risk of contracting the virus and facing extended quarantining as mandated by the State of Delaware.

Beginning July 14th, our families will, once again, be able to make health-based decisions that best serve their needs, and we support all of you in this charge. As always, please contact your school or district administration with any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrik Williams', written over a faint circular watermark of the school district's logo.

Patrik Williams
Superintendent

The Smyrna School District does not discriminate in employment, educational programs, services or activities based on race, color, marital status, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any other protected category or status in accordance with state and federal laws.
Inquiries should be directed to the District Superintendent.