



Dr. Todd E. Keruskin
Superintendent

ELIZABETH FORWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 12, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Elizabeth Forward School District:

Earlier this week, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court heard arguments regarding the school mask mandate issued by Pennsylvania Department of Health in August of this year. On Friday evening, the court announced their decision. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court affirmed the Commonwealth Court's ruling which voided the Department of Health's school mask mandate on the basis that it violated the rulemaking process proscribed by the Regulatory Review Act.

With this action, the Elizabeth Forward School District has been given local control over mask requirements and will return to all aspects of our Health and Safety Plan that was revised and approved by the school board on December 1, 2021. **The Health and Safety Plan states that the wearing of masks and/or face shields will be optional in all school buildings; it will be a parent/child decision and this will be effective tomorrow, Monday, December 13, 2021. However, due to the Federal TSA mandate still in place, face coverings will continue to be required for all students and staff on school buses.**

We are committed to keeping your child and our whole school community safe and healthy. Each morning, before sending your child to school, we would ask you to use the District's Symptom Screening Tool with your child. If he/she has any of the symptoms identified in the screening tool, we ask that you keep them home and notify the school.

The Elizabeth Forward School District continues to work with the Allegheny County Health Department, Governor Wolf's Office and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to evaluate the most current information related to COVID-19.

Thank you for ALL of your support over the last 20 months! We are so proud of our staff, students and the entire community for pulling together during these rapidly changing times. We are truly EFstrong!

Sincerely,

Dr. Todd E. Keruskin

Superintendent of Schools