

November 10, 2021

Dear TESD Families,

TESD is aware of today's ruling by the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court that overturns the masking order issued by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health that requires masking inside all public and private schools. After the ruling was issued, we received the following communication from the Pennsylvania Department of Education:

"Earlier today, the Commonwealth Court issued a ruling voiding Acting Secretary Beam's school mask order. The state is filing an appeal today, which will trigger a stay of the Court's ruling and keep the order in effect. Schools should continue to observe the school masking order throughout the duration of the court's proceedings."

**As such, at this time the masking requirement will remain in effect for TESD schools.**

Earlier this week, the Governor stated the intention to return K-12 masking decisions from the Commonwealth to local leaders on January 17, 2022. This announcement comes with ever changing COVID-19 transmission levels and expanded availability of vaccines and boosters. We will remain in consultation with health authorities to determine if these factors should prompt any revision of local health and safety protocols.

We recognize that parents and residents within TESD hold different views about mandated masking. Until the matter becomes further settled, we ask for your continued patience and cooperation by continuing to send your child to school with a required mask.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Gusick  
Superintendent of Schools