

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are enjoying a happy and restful summer. The district has been very busy preparing for the upcoming school year and we are excited to welcome students back to school on Monday, August 30th.

I am writing to inform you that the administration will be recommending to our School Board that the district follow guidelines for masking that will be dependent upon transmission levels in Chester County. We are now hovering just below the “substantial” level in Chester County. Please access the [Chester County Health Department Weekly Data Report](#) to review the most recent information.

This plan will serve to keep our students safe and greatly limit having to quarantine students in close contact situations. I certainly recognize there are concerns about students wearing masks, but if we elect not to mask during elevated transmission levels, we will undoubtedly jeopardize in-person instruction.

County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status K-12
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Recommended
Moderate	10-49	OR	5% - 7.9%	Required
Substantial	50-99	OR	8% - 9.99%	Required
Very High	≥100	OR	≥10%	Required

Chester County Health Department updates county transmission levels each Friday, and we will communicate with our families at that time about whether masks will be required for the following week.

In addition to these masking guidelines, we will also update our Health and Safety Plan to include the following mitigation strategies:

- 3 feet of social distancing will be maintained to the extent possible in classrooms and in lunchrooms.
- On-site COVID testing will be available for symptomatic students and teachers. (Students will **not** be tested without parent permission.)
- Per the Chester County Health Department, Contact tracing is still required in the event of a positive case, with the following exceptions:
 - Proof of vaccination
 - OR
 - **If both the infected student and the close contact(s) were wearing masks.**
- Students will have an assigned seat (or QR code) in school and on the bus.

- We support vaccination efforts for those who are eligible. [Vaccine clinic information can be found on the CCHD's website.](#)

We will continue with mitigation efforts including increased sanitation, hand washing before lunches, etc. All updates to our plan will be communicated throughout the school year, as it is likely our health and safety plan will be fluid and continue to evolve. We are extremely hopeful that we can offer full, in-person instruction throughout the entire school year. Thank you for your patience and support as we work to safely welcome WCASD students for the start of the 2021-22 school year. If you would like to consider a fulltime Cyber Program option we are accepting enrollment through August 24th. Please email WCCyber@wcasd.k12.pa.us for more information about the K-12 West Chester Cyber Program.

I will officially begin as Superintendent in the West Chester Area School District on August 14th. I'm very much looking forward to working with our students, staff, and parents this school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bob Sokolowski,
Assistant Superintendent