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May 14, 2021

Dear WCASD Community,

As you've likely heard, the CDC has released new guidance saying fully vaccinated people no longer have to wear a mask, indoors or outdoors, except where required by law or other local regulations. Places such as hospitals, doctors offices, many stores and schools are still continuing with indoor masking for the time being.

We are continuing to follow guidance from the Chester County Department of Health. We are awaiting updates for how this recent guidance change will impact schools in the county, as well as whether changes to contact tracing will follow.

As we look toward the end of the school year, we have many events occurring at our school buildings, and we want to clarify district guidelines regarding mask-wearing and other mitigation strategies:

- Staff and students are no longer required to wear masks outside when engaging in high exertion outdoor activities, including but not limited to, athletics, exercise or play activities.
- Masks are still required in all of our school buildings, including individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Again, this may change according to Chester County Health Department guidance.
- A decision on masks at high school commencement ceremonies will be made in the coming weeks. The Pennsylvania Governor recently announced that all mitigation strategies with the exception of masks would be eliminated as of May 31. We are waiting to see how the updated CDC guidance will impact this state order.
- Parent volunteers will be permitted at outdoor field day events and principals will communicate protocols and details for each school.
- Teachers are no longer required to disinfect desks and tables in between classes. Our custodial staff will continue to disinfect school buildings, including high-touch surfaces, on a nightly basis.

On a very positive note, COVID-19 case counts are continuing to fall, and it appears that we are moving much closer to an end to this very challenging time.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent