



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
6820 MARKET STREET
RUSSELL PA 16345-3406

AMY J. STEWART
SUPERINTENDENT

September 2, 2021

Dear WCS D Stakeholders:

In response to Governor Wolf and the order of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) directing face covering in school entities beginning on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, the district's administration will be complying with the mandate as it was set forth.

Students who attend a Pennsylvania School Entity (Warren County School District) will be required to wear face coverings upon entrance into the school building. Additionally, students will be required to wear face coverings throughout the school day with the exception of when they are eating and on designated face covering breaks set up by the teacher, or outdoors.

Students who do not comply with the Order of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, directing face coverings in school entities, will not be permitted entrance into their classroom(s) and will be placed in a designated space for the duration of the school day, or until such time the student complies with the Order of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. If assigned to a designated space, K-5 students will work on assignments provided to them by their teacher, and 6-12 students will receive their work and complete assignments through Microsoft TEAMS.

Additionally, students who have not been granted an exemption by the District and who refuse to wear a face covering are subject to discipline pursuant to the District's Discipline Code for insubordination, miscellaneous inappropriate conduct, etc. Insubordination – Disrespect falls under two (2) categories within the discipline code. Imposed discipline will be determined by the severity of the act of insubordination-disrespect (e.g., refusal to wear a face covering or an alternative, when applicable, in school). The definitions of each category listed under Insubordination-Disrespect are listed below.

Category I

Refusal to comply with a directive given by an employee of the District, when such refusal does not create a substantial disruption to the school environment or degrade a District employee. Examples may include but are not limited to sleeping in class, not sitting down when asked, and refusing to do work.

#1 Offense – Warning.

#2 Offense – Warning and parents will be notified.

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Gary Weber, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.

#3 Offense – Student/parent/principal conference and/or other disciplinary action.

#4 Offense – One (1) to three (3) days suspension.

#5 and Subsequent Offenses – Three (3) to ten (10) days suspension and referral to the hearing officer if expulsion is the recommended discipline.

Category II

Refusal to comply with a directive given by an employee of the District when such refusal creates a substantial disruption to the school environment or degrades a District employee.

#1 Offense – Student/parent/teacher conference and/or other disciplinary action.

#2 Offense – One (1) day suspension.

#3 Offense – One (1) to three (3) days suspension.

#4 and Subsequent Offenses – Three (3) to ten (10) days suspension and referral to the hearing officer if expulsion is the recommended discipline.

Any act of disrespect by a student towards a District employee or an affiliate of the District, or towards any such person's property which occurs at any time and which is linked to that individual's association with the District will be subject to disciplinary action according to this subsection.

Any individual working, attending, or visiting a school entity shall wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status, except as set forth in Section 3 of the Order. *A Face Covering Accommodation*, as defined by the Order of the Pennsylvania DOH *Directing Face Covering in School Entities* will be provided when applicable; and the District will initiate its Child Find obligation to comply with identification of a child with a disability and/or reconvene a meeting for a child with an existing Chapter 14 IEP or 15 service agreement to discuss appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Parents seeking an accommodation or exemption for their child are encouraged to contact the Building Principal or the Office of Pupil Services at Central Office.

The Warren County School District understands the mixed feelings of mask usage and respects the opinions of each stakeholder within the community. However, at this time, District Administration is required to comply with the order set forth by Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. If there are any changes to the mandate, the Warren County School District will make a formal announcement at that time. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

WCSD Administration

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