



SOUTH WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 1, 2021

Good Afternoon Mustang Families and Staff:

Yesterday, the Acting Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Health instituted a masking order for all students, staff and visitors in public schools. The order is effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021. As a result of this order, the district has been in consultation with our district solicitor to review the district's obligations for enforcement. It is through our conversations, the district has been advised we are obligated to enforce this order. As school officials, the legal obligation to enforce this order comes from the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955.

The administrative team and school board are aware we have families who are upset with this order. We are also aware the order has been challenged by other elected officials and will likely be taken to court in the coming days/weeks. However, in the interim, we are asking our families to comply with the order as the process works its way through the legislature and/or courts.

The Board of School Directors will be holding an Emergency Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM in the South Western High School Auditorium to hear public comment on the masking order. Please note this Emergency Meeting will be held prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Board Meeting at 7:00 on the same evening. The district will make both meetings available for viewing on our Mustang Vision Channel beginning at 5:00 PM. A link for the meeting will be posted on the district's website before the end of the day on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

In closing, the district will continue to work with our solicitor to monitor the status of the order, including any changes, as we proceed with the current school year. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Thank you,

Jay H. Burkhart

Jay H. Burkhart, D.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

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