



Clarion County Career Center

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September 2, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian & Student

I am writing to provide information regarding the face covering order from the Secretary of the PA Department of Health that was announced on August 31, 2021. In light of this order, the Career Center staff, students, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering while indoors beginning Tuesday, September 7, 2021, regardless of their vaccination status.

- Every teacher, child/student, staff, or visitor working, attending, or visiting a school entity shall wear a face covering while indoors, regardless of their vaccination status.
 - A face covering is defined as something that covers the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and can be factory-made, sewn by hand, scarf or bandana.
- The sending schools will handle exceptions to wearing a face covering; they will notify the Career Center of the exceptions. You do not need to provide this information to the Career Center. Please refer to Section 3 of the official order from the Secretary of Health for a complete list of exceptions. The exceptions that pertain to the Career Center are summarized below:
 - When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. ***Students and staff do not need a documented exception for safety reasons.*
 - When wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
 - When an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking.
 - When participating in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from other individuals

I understand there are varying feelings and opinions about wearing face coverings in schools, but we are required to follow the face covering order as a public school. Mask breaks will be provided as they were in the previous year. Additionally, per the Centers for Disease Control, **students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student will not be quarantined if both the positive student and the exposed student wore masks appropriately while together.** This will help keep students in school in instances where they would have been quarantined for seven to ten days after an exposure.

The link to the official order from the Secretary of the PA Department of Health can be found on the Career Center's website.

Please be aware that this situation is flexible. We have been informed that additional guidance from the PA Department of Education and the Department of Health is forthcoming; therefore, the above information is subject to change. I will provide updates through our website and OneCall Now notifications.

If you have questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please call the Career Center at 814-226-4391. If you prefer to contact me by email, my address is twildeson@clarioncte.org.

Thank you for understanding as we work through this school year. We want to provide as safe of an educational environment as possible during what continues to be a difficult time for everyone.

Appreciatively,

Traci Wildeson
Director of Career and Technical Education