



August 13, 2021

Dear Chardon Schools Parent/Guardian:

The safety and security of students and staff in our schools remains our highest priority. The issue of mandatory masking in schools continues to be a challenging and divisive issue among parents and within our community in general. Our Board of Education is focused on making a decision that returns our students and staff to the classroom in a safe and effective manner.

Earlier this week, a Board-appointed Committee meeting was held to review the district's Safe Return to School Plan. Most specifically, the discussion centered on how to address facial coverings as we open the school year. During that meeting, and in the days following, significant public comment was offered on this topic both in favor and opposed to mandatory masking. The committee members requested that resolutions detailing options for facial coverings be prepared for consideration by the Board. That task was completed.

In preparation for the upcoming regular meeting of the Board, the President and Vice President of the Board of Education completed a customary review of the agenda. Based on this review, I am writing to inform you of the following:

1. The resolution to adopt standards for the use of face coverings during the 2021-22 school year **will not appear** on the agenda for the August 16, 2021 Board of Education Meeting.
2. As a result, the school year will open under the facial covering standards communicated to parents in July. Specifically, facial covering for students will be **optional, but strongly recommended indoors**.
3. Facial coverings are **required on school buses** based on current mandate.

District administration will continue to closely monitor public health information including the rate of positive COVID-19 cases and quarantine among our students and staff to inform our response actions. It is important to understand that these data, or future directives from public health officials, may require us to modify our Safe Return to School Plan at some point in the future including consideration of the question of facial coverings.

Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if you require additional information in this regard.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent