



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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JEANNE E. FRANKLIN, MPH, PMP
County Health Director

June 9, 2021

Dear Chester County and Delaware County School Leaders,

This school year was certainly a year none of us could have ever imagine! It has been almost exactly a year when the Chester County Health Department first issued school guidance! I wanted to thank you again for the commitment throughout the year to health and safety of your staff and students.

After a tremendous effort across the our two Counties, we are ending the school year with a high COVID-19 vaccine rate which has contributed greatly to the County's consistently low incidence rate and percent positivity. Before the availability of vaccine, we showed that consistent commitment to layered mitigation measures has a positive impact. Much has been learned locally and as a Commonwealth which is transferrable as we continue to navigate the long-term response to COVID-19.

If the COVID-19 incidence rate and percent positivity remain low, the Chester County Health Department's supports beginning the 2021-2022 school year with no mitigation measures, including face coverings, and layering in mitigation strategies if and as needed. The Health Department respects that the decision for any COVID-19 mitigation measures is ultimately that of each school district and its board.

The PA Departments of Education and Health have recently released guidance including a template and resources for school health and safety plans to include critical mitigation strategies that limit the introduction and transmission of COVID-19. As such, the Chester County Health Department will defer to the PA Departments of Education's and Health's guidance for the 2021-2022 school year, rather than providing separate guidance. The Health Department will work directly with the state departments to promote and clarify guidance. We will certainly continue to monitor all COVID-19 activity, and provide consultation to schools as needed.

Additionally, regarding summer programs/camps hosted by schools, given the current low incidence rate and percent positivity, the Chester County Health Department supports making face coverings to be optional for staff and students/campers.

Stay healthy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne E. Franklin".

Jeanne E. Franklin, MPH, PMP
County Public Health Director

"Protecting You and Your Environment"