

Safety Questions and Concerns for Returning to School

The public school system begins to impose untested and risky physical and psychological restrictions on our children under the PA Department of Health's Universal Face Covering Order. We parents and school employees need the enforcing entities to provide answers and information to justify these experimental practices.

Masks:

Requests for further information regarding the extensive wearing of masks and children.

- Requesting safety studies of extensive mask wearing for children.
 - Respiratory Effects
 - Pulmonary Effects
 - Immunological Effects
 - Psychological Development
 - Cognitive Development
 - Social Development
- Studies on the safety of children wearing masks during physical activities both indoors and outdoors.
- Studies on the safety of children wearing masks outdoors in high temperatures and humidity.

Questions on the effects of mask wearing on children's learning and development.

- Concern for the effects of the distraction a face covering will be on their ability to learn.
- The inability to read facial and discern facial expressions and the confusion and feeling of isolation that can cause children.
- Seeing how the mouth forms letter sounds and words is imperative to new and emerging readers. It is paramount to children with hearing impairment. It is needed for learning support for children with learning and reading difficulties.
- The impact the child's ability to identify faces.

Enforcement and Monitoring.

- How will mask wearing be enforced and monitored in the classroom, in the building and on school property?
- Will children be disciplined or punished for playing with them or removing them?
 - If so, how and by whom?

Children with Medical Exemptions.

- How can parents be assured that their child will not be pressured into wearing a mask by other students, teachers or staff members?
- How can parents be assured that their child/children will not be treated differently than the other children by teachers, staff members and other students?
- What precautions are being put in place to prevent bullying of medically exempt children within the schools and what are the ramifications if any of the above issues does occur?

OSHA's Classroom Air Quality Standards:

Requests for further information on how the classroom air quality is impacted due to the filtration through cloth face coverings.

- Studies on the air quality filtered through cloth face coverings (both natural and synthetic fabrics) and how it impacts the wearer during extensive wear.
- Supporting information on how filtered air quality through cloth face coverings will be monitored and maintained to make sure it meets OSHA's IAQ standards.

Social Distancing:

Requests for further information and data regarding the impact of Social Distancing measures on children.

- Studies on classroom confinement and isolation's effects on children.
 - Emotional Development

- Psychological Development
 - Cognitive Development
 - Social Development
 - Neurological Development
 - Behavioral Impact
- Studies on desk confinement's effects on children.
 - Emotional Development
 - Psychological Development
 - Cognitive Development
 - Social Development
 - Neurological Development
 - Behavioral Impact
- Studies on the overall effects of removing and discouraging socialization in schools on children.
 - Studies on the effects Emotional Development of denying innate human social interaction tendencies on children.
 - Studies on the effects of denial and discouragement of human touch on young children and school aged children.
 - Studies on the impact on learning without personal and hands on help for young children.
 - Studies on how the suppression of physical interaction with their peers will impact children.
 - Psychological Development
 - Cognitive Development
 - Emotional Development
 - Neurological Development
 - Behavioral Impact
 - Overall Mental Health

Concerns and questions on the effects of Social Distancing on children's learning and development.

- What does student and teacher interaction look like for all students in the classrooms?
- What does student and teacher interaction look like in elementary age children? Especially younger children who require more assistance and one on one interaction with their teachers for help with handwriting and reading assistance.
- What does student and teacher interaction look like for children who receive additional one on one learning support with specialized support professionals?
- Will children be disciplined or punished from hugging, touching and playing together in the classrooms, at recess, in hallways between classes?

- If so, by whom and how?
- Special Learning and Elective classes; Physical Education and Health, Art, Music, Language Learning, Technology Labs and Library
 - How will these very important supplements to learning be impacted by Social Distancing and COVID-19 procedures?

Overall Psychological Effects:

Concerns for the overall mental health of the children.

- Due to the abruptness and instability COVID-19 has caused many children have been left with experiencing anxiety, depression, fear, insecurity, parental job loss, loss of homes, food shortages in the home.
- Many students will not be returning to the schools as the same children they left as. What measures and resources will be in place to meet their mental health needs?
- What training will be given to staff to ensure that their personal fears and feelings are not impressed on impressionable students?
- How will parents be assured that their children will not be made to feel responsible for making adults feel better about their adult feelings and responsible for the health of others?
- Address the concern of mandating children/students do things they are not comfortable doing and going against their autonomy.

School Safety Procedures:

Fire safety and school shooter procedures.

- How will Social Distancing affect the schools' fire safety procedures?
- How will Social Distancing affect the schools' school shooter procedures?
- How will masks impede identifying individuals on a school's campus that should not be?

Cleaning procedures and product safety.

- What cleaning products will be used in areas that children will spend time?
- What is the cleaning schedule and how often will the cleaning products be used daily and where they will be used?
- Studies on the effects of prolonged use of hand sanitizer and children.
 - Cancerous Agents
 - Endocrine System
 - Neurological Development

- Nervous System
- Immunological Effects
- List of ingredients of the cleaning products.
- Studies of the effects of the prolonged exposure of these ingredients on children and adults.
 - Cancerous agents
 - Endocrine System
 - Neurological Development
 - Nervous System
 - Immunological Effects

COVID-19 in School:

Request for further information on procedures on exposure inside the schools.

- If a student or staff member becomes infected. What will be the procedure?
 - Does the school close and if so, for how long?
 - What will be required to re enter the school. Will test confirmation be required?
 - Contact tracing for minors in the school, what is the procedure?
 - Will all students and staff in contact be required to be tested?

Request for further information on procedures of a sick student in school.

- Where will the student be isolated if they show symptoms?
- Will all sick students be treated as if they are symptomatic for COVID-19
- How will they be treated by staff?
- Will a doctor's note be required to re enter school after any illness?

COVID-19 Risk and Children:

What we know about COVID-19 and children.

- Per the latest [CDC COVIDView website](#) data week ending July 4th 2020, the overall hospitalization rate from COVID-19 is 0.1% (107.2 per 100,000) of cases with school aged children (5-17 years) being only 0.004% (4.4 per 100,000).

- Residents of Long Term Care facilities have accounted for approximately half of all cases and 88% of all deaths with the average age of those who have died from COVID-19 at 79 (PA average life expectancy is 78.5) while there has been 0 pediatric deaths from COVID-19 in Pennsylvania and [only 3 pediatric deaths](#) in the entire United States believed to be from COVID-19.
- In a recent Senate Hearing, Rand Paul [R] Kentucky, asserted the following:
 - [22 countries have reopened their schools](#) and have seen no discernible increases in cases.
 - Contact tracing [studies in china](#), [iceland](#), britain, and the [netherlands](#) failed to find a single case of child-to-adult infection.
 - [Brown university researchers](#) studied 25,000 kids in daycares during the pandemic and found that only 0.16% of children got infected
 - The [YMCA published their statistics](#) and found no reports of coronavirus outbreaks or clusters.

Assumption of Liability:

Who holds liability?

- Liability for bacterial lung infections due to extensive mask wearing.
- Liability for bacterial mouth and facial infections due to extensive mask wearing.
- Liability for fungal mouth and facial infections due to extensive mask wearing.
- Liability for the injuries caused by mask wearing.
 - Passing out
 - Injuries due to passing out
 - Sports injuries due to mask wearing
 - Physical Education injuries due to mask wearing
 - Recess injuries due to mask wearing

School Staff Training:

How are adverse events mitigated and reported?

- What training is the Department of Health providing to ensure that ALL SCHOOL STAFF can recognize and intervene when a student or colleague is experiencing a mask-related adverse event?
- How will these adverse events be recorded and reported for local district and state-wide analysis?

- What continuing education and training is scheduled to ensure that staff and parents are always kept up to date on the risks of mask wearing and social distancing as research increases?