



MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Joseph E. Macharola, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Alan S. Futrick, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

(610) 921-8000
FAX: (610) 921-8076
www.muhsdk12.org

Shane M. Mathias, CPA
Business Manager

TO: Staff and Faculty
FROM: Dr. Joseph E. Macharola
DATE: November 24, 2020
RE: Updated COVID-19 Measures

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JEM", is written over the "FROM" line of the memo.

On behalf of Superintendent, Dr. Joseph E. Macharola, this message serves as an organizational update regarding updated measures from the Governor's Office and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) relating to COVID-19.

On Monday, November 23, 2020, Governor Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine issued a press release announcing targeted mitigation measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19 during this critical time. While the directives are applicable to an array of organizations (businesses, recreational facilities, restaurants, etc.), specifics for educational entities are a part of this order. Three areas that impact the Muhlenberg School District and the Pennsylvania Key are as follows:

1. Our Health and Safety Plan can be viewed on the District website.
2. As part of the mitigation efforts, public schools (identified as a school district, intermediate unit, charter school, cyber charter school, or a career and technology education center) in substantial transmission must complete an attestation process to affirm that they are complying with the following orders:
 - o Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19, when cases of COVID-19 occur within the school entity.
 - o Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, effective November 18. As a reminder, the mask order includes the following:
 - Masks are required to be worn indoors and outdoors if you are away from your home.
 - When outdoors, a mask must be worn if you are not able to remain physically distant (at least 6 feet away) from someone not in your household the entire time you are outdoors.



801 Bellevue Avenue (Laureldale), Reading, Pennsylvania 19605-1799



It is the policy of the Muhlenberg School District not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, and national origin in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent (see above) or to the director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, DC

- When indoors while at work, masks will now be required even if you are physically distant from other individuals. This means that even if you are able to be 6 feet apart, you will need to wear a mask while inside unless you work alone.
 - When indoors at home with individuals not in your household, masks will now be required even if you are physically distant from the individuals not in your household. This means that even if you are able to be 6 feet apart, you will need to wear a mask while inside if with people other than members of your household.
 - This order applies to every indoor facility, including homes, retail establishments, gyms, doctors' offices, public transportation, and anywhere food is prepared, packaged, or served.
- The Muhlenberg School District has completed the attestation form indicating we will continue with a virtual model of instruction with the required mitigation efforts implemented (as per the Muhlenberg School District Health and Safety Plan). As an organization, we will continue to evaluate the conditions and data related to the Muhlenberg School District COVID-19 cases and / or staffing implications. The delivery of services will be adjusted as needed to continue to prioritize the health and safety of staff, students, and the community.
3. The Department of Health (DOH) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) have provided additional guidance regarding the travel testing order effective November 20 as follows:
- Individuals traveling into and returning to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from any other State or Commonwealth or an international location, must produce evidence of a negative SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) test from a specimen collected within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth, or quarantine for 14 days upon entering, unless they qualify for one of the exemptions specified in Section 4:

▪ Exemptions

The following individuals are exempt from this testing and quarantine order but shall conduct travel with attention to social distancing and wearing of masks when in contact with other individuals.

- a. Individuals travelling to and from the Commonwealth for the purposes of work.
- b. Individuals travelling to and from the Commonwealth for medical reasons, including individuals providing comfort and support to the patient.
- c. Military personnel travelling to the Commonwealth by order or directive of a state or Federal military authority.
- d. Individuals in transit through the Commonwealth to another destination, provided that the time spent in the Commonwealth is only the amount of time necessary to complete the transit, make use

- of travel services, such as a highway rest stop, or make any necessary travel connection.
- e. Additional exemptions may be issued in guidance documents issued by the Department.

The full press release from the November 23 announcement can be found at: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/as-covid-19-cases-reach-critical-levels-wolf-admin-announces-new-mitigation-efforts/>.

We appreciate your continued cooperation and adherence to all mitigation measures as well as for following the Muhlenberg School District Health and Safety Plan. Our goal is to work together to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the Muhlenberg School District and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Your commitment to health and safety is essential for the organization to continue operations and offer programs and services to our students, families, and stakeholders.

Stay safe and be well!