



# Upper Bucks County Technical School

Serving Palisades, Pennridge and Quakertown

September 5, 2021

Dear Upper Bucks County Technical School Family,

On Tuesday, August 31, Pennsylvania's Acting Secretary of Health signed an Order requiring face coverings to be worn indoors in all school entities, such as UBCTS. The Order is effective 12:01 AM on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, and will remain in effect until some indeterminate amount of time in which the Acting Secretary of Health determines the public health risk is sufficiently reduced.

Operationally, The Order from the PADOH overrules the UBCTS Mask Optional plans to now be "**mask required**" as of Tuesday September 7, 2021.

**The Governor's Order specifically provides that a school should not "enforce face covering requirements when there is an exception under Section 3 or if it is unsafe to do so." Section 4(5)(a). The Governor's Order also provides that one may not be required to wear a mask if "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."**

As such, to claim an exemption to the Governor's Order under the provisions of Section 3, you must complete the exemption form that is available on our website <https://www.ubtech.org>. You are **not required** to provide a note from a physician or a psychologist along with this exemption request. The UBCTS exemption form is the only acceptable form of communication. Both parents and staff members filing an exemption should email the form to the school principal, Mr. Gentilezza ([cgentilezza@ubtech.org](mailto:cgentilezza@ubtech.org)) or deliver a paper copy to the school office. For any staff members submitting an exemption form, please also copy Tracy Kram. Parent/staff emails or hand-written notes cannot be honored without the form. **Please use the form.**

To provide an orderly process and make sure parents' and any staff members' wishes are honored, **we are asking for exemption requests to be submitted as soon as possible. Please do not wait until Wednesday morning if possible.**

To be in compliance with the Governor's Order" Students are not allowed to be without a mask on a bus or inside a school building **without having an exemption form completed.** Students without a mask and without an exemption will be asked to put on a mask. If they do not comply, they will be sent to the office where the administration, student, and parent will discuss the situation.

No school discipline will be enforced on respectful individuals, but without an exemption form, students will be expected to be taken home or will be asked to complete their school work in a designated area. Teachers and other classroom staff do not play a role in granting an exemption, so we appreciate your cooperation as we look to minimize any distraction to the classroom over this matter.

Sincerely,  
James Hallowell, JOC Chairperson (Palisades)  
Megan Banis-Clemens, JOC Vice Chairperson (Pennridge)  
Christopher Spear, JOC Treasurer (Quakertown)