November 25, 2020

Families of the Canton Area School District:

Earlier this week, the Department of Health issued the “*Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings,”* and the Pennsylvania Department of Education updated the “*Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19.”* In order for school districts to stay in compliance with the updated guidance, district superintendents and school board presidents need to sign an “*Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts*” document attesting that while school is in “in-person” instruction, they will abide by the updated guidance documents listed above. The two updates can be found on the web at:

[Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19](https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/SchoolClosureRecommentations.aspx)

[Updated Order of the Secretary of the Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx)

I think it is important for our community to understand that this guidance will dictate how we move forward with our instructional platform. Moving forward, we will be following a 14-day rolling average of cases that we have within the district to determine whether we will continue to stay open in “in-person” instruction or move to “remote learning.” After the Thanksgiving break, I will provide the community with more guidance on what this means for our district. Finally, I would like to remind all families that we will be remote from Wednesday, December 2nd through Friday December 4th. We will return to “in-person” instruction on Monday December 7, 2020.

As the Thanksgiving break approaches, I would also like to continue to ask for family support as we move forward during this pandemic. If you have a child who attends our school district or the Warrior Academy, we would appreciate you emailing us at our questions@canton.k12.pa.us email account or contact, via email, your building principal if your child becomes a case or close contact over the break. This information will be critical as we look to re-open our schools to our students. Although I fully understand you are not required to do so, I would greatly appreciate your efforts in these areas to continue to keep all students and staff safe while they are on the Canton Area School District campus. This information is essential for us to have as we look to reopen, in-person, on December the 7th.

Finally, I wish everybody in the community a safe and enjoyable time with their families this Thanksgiving. Continue to be grateful for your health, the relationships you have made with friends, and your love for your family. These are challenging times, and we all know that everyone you are connected to has made a positive impact in your life. Show them your appreciation. To all our hunters, be safe in the woods this hunting season, and I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Eric Briggs

Eric Briggs, D.Ed.

Superintendent of Schools

Canton Area School District