



VENANGO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TO: Venango Region Catholic School Families and Employees

FROM: President Laura Blake and Venango Region Catholic School Board of Directors

DATE: December 12, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Masking Policy

This correspondence is to inform you of the following:

- On Thursday, December 9, 2021, The Venango Region Catholic School Board of Directors unanimously passed a policy requiring the continued use of facemasks until February 2021.
- This means:
 - Although the government is no longer mandating masks in schools, *VRCS will remain in masks to ensure face-to-face instruction can continue.*
 - Regardless of vaccination status, all students, teachers, and staff will be required to wear a mask indoors at both St. Stephen School and Venango Catholic Jr/Sr High School.
 - The policy will not apply to student-athletes while in active play. Players will be required to mask on the bench and sidelines.
 - All parents and visitors must wear a mask while on a school campus, including sporting events.

Please note:

- VRCS is still required to trace positive COVID-19 cases, notify close contacts, and require individuals to quarantine from school.
- Per DOH, properly masked and socially distanced students are not required to quarantine.
- If a student is unmasked or not correctly wearing a mask, all close contacts would be required to quarantine unless fully vaccinated. The infected student and the close contact both must be masked appropriately to prevent quarantines.
- Due to the high level of transmission in the area, unmasking at this time would result in numerous student quarantines and could prevent in-person learning.

The Venango Region Catholic School Board of Directors will reevaluate the masking policy at the regularly scheduled meeting on February 1, 2021.