



# COLUMBIA-MONTOUR

## Area Vocational-Technical School

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August 31, 2021

### Columbia Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Mask Mandate: Effective September 1, 2021

The primary goal of the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School is to provide in-person learning 5-days week with as much normalcy as possible. On Friday afternoon, we were notified of a positive Covid-19 case. The impact that this positive case had on the number of students who need to quarantine is approaching 25 students at current count, based on Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) quarantine guidelines. In contrast, the total number of students in quarantine would be less if we required masking indoors.

***With this as the basis of our decision, the CMAVTS will be implementing a mask mandate effective immediately for the following groups:***

1. All students in grades 9-12 regardless of vaccination status.
2. All faculty and staff through regardless of vaccination status.
3. All adult education students regardless of vaccination status.
4. All visitors regardless of vaccination status.

While no one wishes for a restrictive mandate, providing our people with the tools necessary to teach and lead will be our most effective path to a successful 2021-2022 school year. In order to ensure the greatest likelihood that we will be able to provide in-person instruction 5-days a week, mandatory masking is necessary. Given the high number of students who will need to quarantine based on a total of a verifiable positive cases, we will apply our progressive disciplinary procedures to ensure compliance with our masking mandate.

The school board will revisit this at our September 21, 2021, board meeting.

#### **Important Notes**

1. Masks are not required outdoors.

We appreciate and acknowledge the many questions and concerns regarding mask mandates in schools. Based on our current experience with Covid-19 in our own school, masking is an important step to comply with quarantine guidelines and keep our students in-person 5 days a week. We appreciate the support of the Ram Community last year in managing through the pandemic and we look forward to working with you as we navigate a new set of challenges with the delta variant.

I would like to thank our faculty, staff, and administration team for their flexibility and adaptability in these challenging times. To the Ram community we ask for your continued understanding and support in our efforts to provide a healthy and safe learning environment for our faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

Ken Kryder  
Administrative Director