November 20, 2020

Dear Centennial Staff, Parents and Guardians,

The Commonwealth as well as most states in our country are experiencing record breaking spikes in new cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began. With Thanksgiving less than a week away, I am writing to share the latest orders relating to travel from Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, that took effect today. Recent updates that strengthen the face covering order are also included in this letter.

Travel restrictions apply to anyone traveling to Pennsylvania or coming back after having been out-of-state:

● 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 COVID-19 test from a specimen collected within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth, or quarantine for 14 days upon entering.

● Exemptions to the travel order mandates for testing and quarantining include individuals travelling to and from the Commonwealth for the purposes of work or medical reasons, military personnel travelling to the Commonwealth by order or directive of a state or Federal military authority, and 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 necessary travel connections.

Face coverings are required when:

● Indoors or in an enclosed space, where another person or persons who are not members of the individual’s household are present in the same space, irrespective of physical distance. This order applies to every indoor facility, including homes, retail establishments, gyms, doctors’ offices, public transportation, and anywhere food is prepared, packaged or served.

● Outdoors with others who are not members of a person’s household and unable to maintain sustained physical distance (at least 6 feet away).
The updated order requiring universal face coverings applies to every individual, age two and older. The new face covering mandates took effect on November 18, 2020, and will be in place until further notice by the PA DOH.

I understand that patience with COVID-19 restrictions has worn thin and frustrations with this “new normal” have increased. Pandemic fatigue is making it harder for most of us to comply with prevention and mitigating practices despite acknowledging their effectiveness in slowing the spread of the virus. I urge you to stay the course - wear masks, practice social distancing, wash your hands often, and remain home if ill. As you are aware, symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. If you are experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, please contact your primary care physician.

Thank you for your continued efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. Together we can keep our communities safe and our schools and businesses open.

In solidarity,

Julie B. Fogt

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