

# Office of the District Attorney

## County of Lebanon

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*Pier Hess Graf*  
District Attorney

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*Jonathan C. Hess*  
Chief County Detective

September 7, 2021

Dear Citizens of Lebanon County,

Last week, Governor Wolf issued yet another mandate. His Orders require all children in school, regardless of whether it is public or private entity, wear masks. This latest edict was a bit of a surprise given his prior promise(s) to leave decisions on masks up to the individual districts themselves. His Orders lacked clarity in both its rules and enforcement methods.

Over the weekend, my Office received countless inquiries from parents. They remain frustrated, confused, and scared of a possible criminal consequence if they refuse compliance with our Governor and his list of ever-changing rules. Our citizens need and deserve answers.

The Office of the District Attorney will not authorize an arrest, criminal citation, or criminal consequence for a parent's simple refusal to mask his or her child at school. Your local law enforcement stands with you in these trying times.

Our parents deserve the respect to raise their children and make decisions as they believe best. Our schools deserve the respect to function as they believe appropriate for their districts and most importantly the families. Put simply, my Office is returning the individual's right to choose to both parents and school districts as a whole.

Our Office and the law enforcement community know that parents, the school districts, the students, and the teachers are all struggling. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all of you.

Respectfully,

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Pier Hess Graf  
District Attorney