



The Shapiro administration wants to give the Pennsylvania Department of Health sweeping new powers over families, schools, and private medical information.

And to understand why, we need to go back to COVID.

During the pandemic, Governor Tom Wolf exercised extraordinary emergency powers over the lives of Pennsylvanians. In May 2021, Pennsylvania voters responded by amending our state Constitution to limit the governor's emergency powers.

But just months later, the Wolf administration ordered every public and even every private school in Pennsylvania to require students, teachers, and visitors to wear masks.

Parents challenged the mandate. And in *Corman v. Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health*, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the new mandate.

The problem was straightforward: **the Department of Health's existing regulations did not give it authority to impose a statewide school mask mandate.** The Department couldn't simply invent a new disease-control measure without the force of law. It had to go through the formal regulatory process.

That was 2021.

Now the Shapiro administration is doing exactly that—giving itself more power over our lives.

The Department of Health has proposed more than **500 pages of new regulations** that would dramatically expand the government's authority—and the Department specifically cites the *Corman* decision in explaining the need for these changes.

This goes well beyond masks. And it isn't limited to a declared emergency.

The proposed regulations would give state health officials much broader authority over Pennsylvania families, children, schools, healthcare providers, and private medical information.

Consider what these new regulations would do.

They would allow Department of Health officials conducting investigations to enter public and private schools **to meet and speak privately with a student (with your child!)**, while prohibiting school personnel from "interfering" with the investigation. What can they talk about? Any health "condition"—like pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases or gender identity. And you, as a parent, can do nothing about it.

They would require healthcare providers to report your vaccination status to a **centralized statewide government database**, unless you know enough to opt out in writing.

They would require your doctor to report any listed disease – including, but not limited to, COVID – to a government database.

And organizations such as pregnancy resource centers that provide certain HIV or sexually transmitted disease testing could be drawn into reporting and referral requirements that include so-called **"reproductive health services"—which can include abortion.**

These are not small administrative changes.

They involve fundamental questions about **who has authority over your child, who has access to your medical information, and how much power government officials should have over private healthcare decisions.**

During COVID, Pennsylvanians pushed back against unchecked executive power. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court told the Department of Health that it could not exercise powers its regulations did not give it.

Alarming, the lesson the Shapiro administration seems to have taken from that decision is that the Department needs broader legal power.

While we care deeply about health and safety, we should be reluctant to give the government such broad powers, particularly with regard to our children.

[Public comment](#) is open until **September 21**.

Please take 30 seconds today to [make your voice heard](#) and protect parental authority, personal privacy, and the proper limits of government.

[Click HERE to Take Action](#)

If you'd like to learn more, **investigative reporter Megan Brock at *The Daily Wire* has taken a deep dive into these proposed regulations and what they mean for Pennsylvania families. [You can read her investigative report at The Daily Wire.](#)**

We learned during COVID what can happen when government officials are given extraordinary power. Of course, health and safety matter. But we shouldn't respond to that experience by giving the government more unchecked power.

For Faith, Family, and Freedom,



Randall Wenger
Chief Operating Officer
Pennsylvania Family Council

P.S. The public comment period ends September 21. [Please submit your comment today](#), and then forward this email to friends or family members who should know what the Shapiro administration is proposing.

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