



August 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

Throughout the pandemic, we have worked closely with the Macomb County Health Department to monitor current conditions and devise a course of action that permits the level of safety while providing the best education possible. Accordingly, the health department tracks the following data to guide their recommendations:

- The trend of COVID-19 cases or positive COVID-19 tests, hospitalizations due to COVID-19, and the number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period
- COVID-19 cases for each day for every 1 million individuals
- The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period
- Health care capacity strength
- Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regards to COVID-19
- Community immunization rates

As you are probably aware, the health department has not been shy in the past with mandating interventions such as masks when the conditions warrant. At this time, based on the relatively low cases in our area, the low hospitalization rate county-wide, and the growing number of vaccinated individuals, we are remaining in alignment with the state and local health departments and **strongly recommending masks**, but not requiring them in classrooms.

We are continuing our other precautions which are listed below:

- Social distancing as much as possible
- Frequent handwashing
- Masks on buses (per CDC and health department mandate)
- Restricting use of drinking fountains and other commonly shared objects
- Assigned seating on buses and at lunch for contact tracing and quarantining
- No visitors to classrooms except kindergarten parents on the first day
- No large indoor gatherings except for sporting events
- Encouraging students and staff to get vaccinated
- Barriers available in each room for those who wish to use them
- Wipes and hand sanitizer available to clean desks and hands
- Virtual conferences by appointment

As we continue to meet with the health department on a weekly basis, we will monitor the data and adjust as the health department mandates. The health



department will be working with district on an individual basis and will be giving specific directives based on the situation at each building or district.

Should there be a case in school, the health department, under its legal authority granted by Michigan Public Act 368 of 1978, 333.5111 is mandating a 10-day quarantine period and will be revising their protocols to allow the option for students who are in close contact (within 6 feet or less for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed or suspected case to remain in school if they opt to wear a mask.

Overall, the most important precaution is to keep your child home if he or she is not feeling well or has any of the symptoms listed below. This simple act alone can reduce transmission more than any other action.

- Temperature 100.4°F or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat New or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Headache
- Chills or rigors (severe chills with shivering)
- Loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle Aches
- Fatigue
- Nausea

Our goal is to be able to keep students safe and provide the best education possible. Through these guidelines developed with the Macomb County Health Department based on the available data, we believe that we will be able to have a successful school year without interruption. However, should the data change and the health department alter their guidance to mandate masks at a building or district wide, we will continue to align our protocols to match.

Thank you,

Phil Jankowski

Superintendent, Anchor Bay Schools