



August 4, 2021

Jefferson Twp. Local School District Families,

With the start of school just a week away, Jefferson Twp. Local Schools is updating its strategies for the reopening of schools and the return to in-person instruction for the fall of 2021.

The District will require all students, staff, and visitors to wear masks inside buildings and on school buses for the start of the 2021-2022 school year based on recommendations from The American Academy of Pediatrics, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Dayton Montgomery County Public Health Department.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends universal masking in schools for everyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).

A Safe return to in-person instruction this Fall is a priority for the district, and masks provide an extra layer of protection in reducing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Throughout this pandemic, we have relied on the guidance of our public health officials. We believe this proactive approach is the best decision for our District and community.

Based on this new recommendation, the increase of new COVID-19 cases, and vaccine status of all students at school, the District will follow all health and safety guidelines, including:

- Masks required for all students on the bus and in school buildings with or without vaccination;
- Masks required for all staff in school buildings and administrative sites with or without vaccination;
- 3-feet social distancing between students where practical;
- Water fountains will not be used; Students are to bring a spill-proof refillable bottle
- School visitors will be restricted to parents/guardians and the District's student support partners, and visitors will be required to wear masks.

The District will continue to monitor public health guidance and update its protocols accordingly as new information becomes available.

We recognize that the pandemic is not over and due to the Delta variant and low vaccination rates, cases of infection are rising again. We also recognize that our students need to be in the classroom where they can learn and thrive. Masks and social distancing are an important tool for protecting staff and students.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

Dr. Richard Gates

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