



August 18, 2021

Dear Families, Staff, and Community of Wyoming Public Schools,

This communication is intended to update you regarding WPS' health and safety protocols in light of the recent CDC, MDHHS, and KCHD recommendations. In addition to our health and safety protocol updates, back-to-school registration information is provided at the bottom of this communication.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause unfortunate disruptions to our goal of returning to "normal" as a school and community. The Kent County Health Department has now issued their strongest warning about the increased cases of COVID-19 and the urgent need for more people to become vaccinated and wear masks.

Based on this latest guidance by the KCHD, as well as the recent CDC announcement placing Kent County in the "high risk" category, **Wyoming Public Schools is now requiring masks to be worn by all PK-12 students and staff indoors in all district buildings, regardless of age or vaccination status**, beginning Monday, August 23. As we continue to track data and consult with the KCHD, we will re-evaluate this requirement by September 30. The only exception is for students and staff with medical conditions that impede their ability to wear a mask.

- **Face Coverings**

- The use of a face covering to prevent the potential spread of the virus is **required** for all students and staff in PK-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks do *not* need to be worn outdoors for recess or outdoor learning activities, regardless of vaccination status.
- The CDC mandates masks for all school bus drivers and passengers.
- If needed, masks will be provided.

- **Covid-19 Vaccination**

- Public health agencies strongly encourage individuals to become vaccinated. The vaccine provides increased immunity to the variants and is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Vaccines are available for all people ages 12 and older. Please contact the KCHD (<https://www.accesskent.com/Health/>) or your health care provider to schedule your vaccination.

- **Contact Tracing**

- When there is a positive or probable case within a classroom, an exposure letter will be sent home to parent(s), just as we do with other infectious diseases such as chickenpox.
- Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to the Kent County Health Department following our Communicable Disease Board Policy 8450 and Michigan Law Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978. For a complete list of reportable diseases, please see the following document: [2021 Reportable Diseases](#).



- **Quarantine and Isolation**
 - All quarantine and isolation information and requirements will continue to be issued by the student's resident health department.
- **Protocol for Athletes**
 - At this time, we are not aware of plans to require testing for the upcoming school year.
 - MDHHS and MHSAA lifted all requirements for student-athlete testing as of June 22, 2021.

WPS remains committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. We have followed guidance from our federal, state, and county health officials and will continue to do so as we begin our 2021-2022 school year. Working together and following these recommendations will provide us with the best opportunity for a safe, in-person learning environment throughout the school year.

Back to School Registration (for both returning and non-returning students)

- Registration is now available in ParentVue.
 - If your child **is** returning to WPS:
 - Go to wyomingps.org - click on Parent Access at the top - Click on I am a Parent.
 - Please log into ParentVue and complete the on-line process (message will pop up once you log-in) to update family and student information by August 19. Please read over the Welcome Message for some information regarding completing the on-line process.
 - If your child **is not** planning on returning to WPS:
 - Please log into ParentVue and complete the question regarding if your child is returning for the 2021-22 school year. If you answer, "not returning" please fill in the next question as to where your child is attending for the 2021-22 school year – after that you will not be required to fill out any more of the registration process.

If you do not remember your ParentVue password or do not have an account and need an activation code, email PVUE@wyomingps.org

Thank you for your continued support of our WPS learning community and I look forward to a fantastic school year together.

Sincerely,

Craig Hoekstra
Superintendent