

CCS

# Back to School Guidance

August 16, 2021



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## **CCS Stated position via August 5, Letter to the Community Summary:**

1. We support and encourage the CDC's recommendation that all individuals wear a mask while indoors. However, parents/legal guardians will have the choice when making the decision for their children regarding facial coverings.
2. The CDC does require everyone over the age of 2 years old (regardless of vaccination status) to wear a mask while on a bus. This will be the district policy until further notice. Masks will be provided for those that forget their mask at home.
3. Layered mitigation strategies will continue, including hand washing, hand sanitizer, ventilation, and cleaning of classrooms and buildings.
4. The COVID-19 Daily Health Screener is no longer required for students and staff. Students and staff should stay home if they are experiencing one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms and follow up with their health care provider.
5. All quarantines will continue to be issued by the student(s) local health department. (District staff may assist this process)
6. All students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status must quarantine.

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## **August 13, 2021 Letter from Kent County Health Department Summary:**

1. According to the Michigan Public Health Code (Public Act 368 of 1978, as amended), the county health department has the authority to issue public health orders when it determined that an imminent danger exists.
2. They did not issue a public health order mandating masks at this time. However, they did point to the Michigan Revised School Code which gives school districts the ability to establish protocols for safety while at or during school sponsored activities.
3. They did indicate that from their review of the science they agree with the conclusion of the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, local hospitals, medical advisory workgroups and other peer-reviewed literature supporting the use of face masks in schools.
4. According to Dr. Adam London, Kent County Health Department Director: “At this time, I am presenting the community with the highest recommendation possible that schools and the parents require adherence to guidance of the CDC, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Kent County Health Department. Above all, I expect that the children under the age of 12, who are not yet eligible for vaccine, are protected through mask use and other proven prevention strategies.”

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## **August 13, 2021 Updated Guidance from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Summary:**

1. Schools should mandate universal masking for students, staff, teachers and visitors while indoors.
2. Local health departments should work with schools to adopt universal masking policies.
3. CDC requires all persons, regardless of vaccination status – to wear masks on public transportation, including school buses. CDC Order Under Section 361
  - a. “Until further notice, under 42 U.S.C. 264(a) and 42 CFR 70.2, 71.31(b), unless excluded or exempted as set forth in this Order, a person must wear a mask while boarding, disembarking, and traveling on any conveyance into or within the United States. A person must also wear a mask at any transportation within the United States.”
4. According to one of our law firms
  - a. “The CDC’s current recommendations does not alter the January 29 CDC order, which requires face masks for those traveling on ‘public transportation,’ which the CDC specifically states includes ‘school buses.’ Accordingly, ‘passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems.’ Schools need to comply with state and federal laws and orders, including the CDC’s January 2021 order.”

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We will continue to work with public health officials and make necessary adjustments based on CDC, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and KCHD guidance to keep students, staff and families safe.

Thank you for your continued patience, and support as we start our school year. CCS will continue to be flexible and adapt to conditions as they evolve.