



MATTHEW BARRETT, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

CYNTHIA A. LAROSA, Ph.D.
Assistant to Superintendent

ROSE E. EMMETT
Business Manager / Board Secretary

Dear Western Wayne Families,

As a reminder, the start of school is Monday, August 30th. We are very excited to have our students back in the classrooms.

At the last School Board meeting, the District's Health and Safety Plan was approved. The plan states that masks are optional for students and staff and that mask mandate procedures may be modified as circumstances with the pandemic change. Due to the most recent CDC, Department of Health, and Department of Education recommendations, Western Wayne has developed a tiered mitigation plan for several scenarios we may encounter. The plan uses both the CDC Level of Community Transmission chart for Wayne County and/or the number of positive cases in our buildings to determine whether masks will be required for students and staff, and for a specific and **temporary** period of time. The goal of the plan is **to keep students in our buildings throughout the school year**, not close buildings due to positive cases, and maintain a consistent continuity of education.

This plan is designed so that we review data regularly to make decisions about if and when we will implement a masking requirement in a particular building, or throughout the District. For example, if Wayne County is in the "High" range of transmission rate, we will require masks throughout the District for a period of two weeks. We will review the data weekly to determine if we can return to a mask optional status. If the transmission rate falls below the "High" range, masks will be optional for the following two weeks unless a building has multiple positive COVID cases in that time frame. The chart in the plan outlines these procedures. There are also new quarantine guidelines that are listed in the plan as well. Please review this plan carefully and contact us with any questions.

Important Wayne County's most recent transmission rate designation is in the "High" category. If the county is again in the "high" range on Friday 8/27, all students and staff will be **required** to wear masks for a period of two weeks starting on Monday 8/30 (unless medically exempt or documented in an IEP or 504). A notice will be sent on Friday with the updated information.

Again, the purpose and goal of this plan is to keep students in school and to hopefully prevent any classroom or building from closing at any given point. We understand that this is not ideal for all families, but we ask for your understanding, flexibility, and compliance with these procedures. Thank you and I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

Matthew Barrett, Ed.D.

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