



# Mayfield City Schools

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

## Mask Recommendation: Please read this document in its entirety

August 4, 2021

Dear Mayfield teachers, staff, parents and students,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer with friends and family. I am writing to provide you with our mask recommendation update for the 2021-2022 school year, as we know it at this time. We know this is a controversial topic. It is likely that many of us will land in different places on this issue. As we move forward, kindness and empathy are the tools that will help us through this time.

### ***Our goals for our students, staff, and community:***

- ***Maintain a healthy and safe environment***
- ***Keep our students learning in person, together, in our schools***
- ***Provide choice***

Late this summer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) released updated recommended guidance on the safe return to school for students and staff. There are several key takeaways that serve as the foundation for the Mayfield City School District's reopening plan this school year:

### **Face masks in grades Pre-K-12 are strongly recommended for our students, teachers and staff.**

- **Wearing a face mask may greatly reduce the risk of students, teachers and staff having to quarantine if a COVID -19 positive case/s are reported in any of our Mayfield schools.**
- **It is your right to wear or not wear a face mask. We support either decision. Please be respectful of the choice of our students, teachers and staff.**

1. COVID-19 vaccination is not a requirement for students or staff to return to school this fall. However, the CDC, AAP and the ODH **strongly recommend** that individuals use vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. As of this date, there is **no state-wide required masking mandate** for the 2021-2022 school year for staff or students.
3. **The Mayfield City School District supports all students or staff members in their choice to wear a face mask.** It is important to note that the Ohio Department of Health **strongly recommends** masks be

worn indoors by all individuals who are not fully vaccinated (age 2 years and older). The CDC and CCBH as of August 3, 2021, now recommend that all individuals (vaccinated or not) wear a mask while indoors where community transmission is high.

4. Students and staff who use **Mayfield City Schools transportation (bus or van) are required** to wear a mask, per a CDC [federal mandate](#) that was released on July 9, 2021. Mayfield City Schools does not have a choice in this matter. No one will be permitted on a Mayfield school bus or van without a face mask.
5. Mayfield City Schools **will attempt to maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance** between students within classrooms, but such distances may not be possible in all situations throughout the school day. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, the district will continue to layer multiple prevention strategies to help mitigate risks:
  - a. Constant communication
  - b. Sanitation/cleaning/disinfection
  - c. Contact tracing
  - d. Coroplast boards/dividers
  - e. Ventilation strategies
6. Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness. **Parents and staff are asked to conduct a wellness check each morning before arriving at school.** Our district nursing staff will continue to work with families and staff throughout the year to be proactive in assessing student and staff health situations.
7. The district is working closely with our community medical partners and staff to continuously assess and make recommendations for maintaining a safe learning environment for our students and staff. **Please be aware that health and safety recommendations may shift throughout the school year to adjust to changing health conditions as a result of the pandemic.** For example, if an increase in positive COVID-19 cases occurs and/or a high number of absenteeism among students, teachers or staff happens due to illness, changes to our plan and policies will become necessary and communicated to families immediately.
8. Quarantine and Contact Tracing: Mayfield City Schools is reviewing the following [Recommended Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines for Schools - August 2021 from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health](#).

**Wearing a face mask may greatly reduce the risk of students, teachers and staff having to quarantine if a COVID-19 positive case/s are reported in any of our Mayfield schools.** We will continue to monitor the guidance and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Ohio and Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

9. The remote learning option (Alternative Education Program) is being offered as a choice for students in grades K-5, our unvaccinated population. **At this time, according to local health officials, the transmission of COVID-19 in our area remains low.**

As we begin the second full school year of this pandemic, please note that we will take a cautious approach to our full, in-person return to school once again. However, through our vigilant actions, I am excited that our students and staff can experience a more normal school year. Together, our school district, families and

community will continue to join forces to ensure our students and staff remain healthy and that we continue to advance our students through a prosperous and happy new year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Barnes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and "J".

Superintendent, Mayfield City Schools