August 20, 2021

Dear Mayfield teachers, staff, parents, students and community,

Earlier this week, the district issued a face mask mandate in Grades Pre-K-5 to protect our younger students who are ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, along with a strong recommendation for students in grades 6-12 to wear a face mask.

The decision to issue a mandate to students 12 years and younger was supported by the survey the district conducted August 12-14th. Those survey results also indicated most parents intended for their child/ren in grades 6-12 to wear a mask while in school.

Students returned to campus during phase-in schedules, beginning August 16th with all students on campus at full capacity on August 18th. During this week, school officials have observed very few students in grades 6-12 wearing face masks. This is concerning. Our priorities for this school year are to maintain the health and safety of our school community and continue learning in person, in school, together.

Therefore, pursuant to <u>Mayfield Board Policy 8450.01</u> Mayfield City Schools will mandate face masks in all school buildings for all students, teachers, staff and visitors in grades Pre-K-12, effective Monday, August 23rd. We will review the mandate weekly and give updates at regular Board of Education meetings.

The district's Pre-K-12 face mask mandate for students, staff and visitors in our schools is our best organizational strategy to support and protect our students' academic time and to maintain a stabilized learning environment.

<u>Per the guidelines of the CCBH</u>, students and staff who are wearing a mask do not need to quarantine if they are wearing a mask and have been exposed or are in close contact with exposure, layered protection strategies have been followed and he/she is not exhibiting symptoms.

The district's face mask/face shield policy, which was approved in September 2020, also includes exceptions to the policy. Parents/guardians seeking an exception may complete the request in the School Store in the Infinite campus Parent Portal. <u>Click for instructions</u>.

The second full school year of the COVID-19 pandemic has begun. We will continue to emphasize the importance of health and safety and keeping our students learning in person, together at our schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Barnes Superintendent

Michael J. Bounes