

Thursday, June 30, 2022

Dear WISD families and staff,

We would like to provide an important update on changes to our masking protocols.

At the end of last week, Washtenaw County once again shifted down to a safer COVID-19 community level. Washtenaw County is now considered a “low” COVID-19 community level by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nearly 200 staff and 70 families responded to last week’s survey on masking policies. For student programs, 67% of respondents preferred optional masking. For the administrative offices at the Teaching and Learning Center, 79% of respondents preferred optional masking. This is a significant change from when we last surveyed families and staff in February 2022. We also continue to see decreases in cases and hospitalizations and increases in vaccination and treatment options.

**Washtenaw ISD will be updating its COVID-19 masking policies beginning Tuesday, July 5 through August 19, 2022, unless conditions require us to reconsider these protocols:**

**High Community Level:** Universal masking will be required across all WISD sites.

**Low and Medium Community Levels:** (*Washtenaw is currently “low.”*)

- **Early Childhood:** At this time, masks will continue to be **required** in all Early Head Start home visiting and Head Start summer programs due to a federal mandate. For consistency across home visiting programs, Early On home visiting will also continue to require masks.
- **Student Programs:** Masking protocols will vary by program and classroom as outlined below.
  - Masks will be **required** in specific High Point classrooms when high-risk, medically fragile students are present: Naebeck (Room 22), Davis (Room 26), McKelvie (Room 41), Higgins (Room 42), and Eddy (Room 43). If a mask-optional classroom is interacting with a medically fragile classroom, such as in the gym, they will be required to mask (if medically able).
  - Masks will be **optional** for all other High Point classrooms and all other WISD student programs.
  - Masks will be available in easily accessible spaces across WISD’s student programs, and are always welcome in the district. It is highly recommended that students and staff keep a mask with them, wear them during large gatherings, and remain conscious and considerate of when others around you may request you to wear a mask.
- **Teaching and Learning Center (TLC):** Masks will be **optional** at the TLC in all work spaces, common areas, and meeting rooms. Masks *may* be required for certain designated situations, such as during CPI training or during fingerprinting.
  - Masks will be available in easily accessible spaces across WISD’s TLC, and are always welcome in the district. It is highly recommended that staff and visitors keep a mask with them, wear them during large gatherings, and remain conscious and considerate of when others around you may request you to wear a mask.



# Washtenaw I S D

A REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

---

**We will let you know by August 19 if we are making additional changes to our masking protocols for the Fall semester.**

As always, WISD will provide free antigen testing requested by any student or staff member, and we will continue to use other health and safety strategies like increased air flow and improved ventilation and air filtration, social distancing, and encouraging students and staff who are feeling ill to stay home. We will continue notifying WISD sites if there is a positive case at your location. For those who are able, please get vaccinated and boosted if you are eligible.

Thank you all for your care and support. We hope you have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Naomi Norman  
Superintendent