



September 2, 2021

Dear Madison families, teachers, and staff,

Based on the information from Governor Holcomb's office yesterday and the signing of Executive Order 21-24, we wanted to share our updated COVID-19 [Masking and Close Contact Policy](#).

Per Executive Order 21-24, schools that **have mask requirements that are consistently followed throughout the day** do not have to quarantine students, teachers, and staff who are close contacts who are NOT showing symptoms of COVID-19. Schools still must contact trace by notifying their local health department, as well as, parents, teachers, and staff who were in close contact. The changes apply to classroom and school bus situations only. Classroom exceptions where mask use may be intermittent for instruction purposes include instances such as band, choir, and PE classes with vigorous activity. Changes do NOT include athletic or extracurricular activities.

Since the return of face-to-face instruction following the pandemic shut down, Madison Consolidated Schools has enforced a mask mandate when in buildings and on campuses. "Our mask requirement has remained in place since returning to school", shared Superintendent Dr. Jeff Studebaker. "We have a responsibility to do all I can to provide safe learning spaces for the students, teachers, and staff within our district, as well as, students and families visiting us from other places. While nothing is proven to be 100% effective, we have seen that masks slow the spread of this virus. Our custodians, building administrators, students, and staff are collaborating to do their part to keep the high-touch surfaces sanitized and safe as possible as they go about their daily routines."

Updated control measures released by the Indiana Department of Health, in conjunction with Executive Order 21-24, allow some flexibility with CCQ situations when schools are enforcing their mask mandates. "While this change in protocol will allow more students to stay in class, it also increases the priority for self-monitoring symptoms by families," Studebaker continued. "We have recently seen evidence of student-to-student spread in some isolated areas, which is concerning. We are able to pinpoint this by identifying a positive case, monitoring the students identified in the CCQ circle, and watch for additional positive case confirmations. While the majority of our students who get put in CCQ remain healthy, this situation has proven that it is very effective. We understand it is an inconvenience and not an ideal learning environment but we have worked tirelessly to do the best we can for everyone's safety."

"We must work together to prioritize our efforts to self-monitor, err on the side of caution when necessary, and be hyper-diligent when not in school," shared Lauren Campbell, RN and Nursing Coordinator for the district. "We can monitor and follow internal processes during the school day but we all need to continue to be diligent when we are out on family activities and away from school. We must continue social distancing whenever possible, wash our hands, and mask when we are in close proximity to people who are not immediate family members."

In addition to the mask requirements, MCS is partnering with Jefferson County Health Department to host a vaccination clinic for eligible students ages 12+ and their family members, teachers, and staff

who wish to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Information has been shared with families of students who are age-eligible about the upcoming clinics.

As a reminder, if a student can provide proof of full vaccination and is not exhibiting symptoms, they will not be required to quarantine.

“Our nursing staff has done an incredible job of managing both the health side and administrative tracking aspects of this situation”, Studebaker commended. “However, the work just got a bit harder and we need your help as parents. Please, place a priority on self-monitoring for symptoms at home, and DO NOT send your child to school if they have any COVID-19 related symptoms. We must all work together in order for us to ensure that our students are safe, growing, and happy during this challenging school year.”

Thank you for choosing Madison Consolidated Schools for your child,

Dr. Jeff Studebaker, Superintendent