



FENNVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Educational Excellence, Community Atmosphere, Global Vision"

FIVE MEMORIAL DRIVE
FENNVILLE, MICHIGAN 49408

September 30, 2021

Dear Fennville Community,

I want to first express gratitude on behalf of the Board of Education and staff of Fennville Public Schools for your cooperation, support, and words of encouragement during the first several weeks of this school year. This is especially helpful as we implement our COVID-19 response plan and seek to keep our students and staff safe.

Shortly before the beginning of the school year the Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) issued an order requiring masks for students in grades K-6 inside the school. As of 5:00 p.m. today that mask order has been rescinded in response to state budget legislation in Lansing. Therefore, beginning Friday, October 1, 2021, Fennville Public Schools will follow the expectations of the COVID-19 Response Plan approved by the Board of Education on August 16, 2021. It states: "We respect the personal choices of parents and students regarding masks so at this time we are encouraging, but not requiring them when inside a school building. *This is subject to change with a local outbreak, or a local, state, or federal mandate.*"

Please note that masks are still required on school buses. This is a federal requirement for all public transportation in the nation. If your child rides the school bus, please send him or her with a mask to wear while on the school bus and encourage cooperation with the bus driver in meeting the expectations.

Also note that if a student is identified as a close contact to a positive case at school, he or she does not need to quarantine if vaccinated. If the student is wearing a mask at the time of exposure, there are scenarios in which the student may be able to remain in school. Staff can explain the options when close contacts are notified.

So much time and energy has gone into the mask discussions that many of our other safety and exposure mitigation strategies have been overlooked. In Fennville we are continuing with regular cleaning and sanitization of high-touch areas. We encourage frequent handwashing and use of sanitizer as appropriate. Thanks to our supportive community, every building on campus has modern air-handling equipment that allows us to pull in fresh outside air and filter recirculating indoor air with hospital grade filters. Our teachers and staff encourage social distancing as much as possible. If a positive case is identified, we cooperate with ACHD to identify close contacts and avoid further possible spread at school.

Here are the FPS statistics from August and September: Sixteen (16) students have tested positive for COVID-19. One was in quarantine due to possible school exposure at the time of the positive test. Seventy-eight (78) students have had periods of quarantine of which forty (40) were due to exposure at school. Six (6) adults have tested positive and one adult had to quarantine due to exposure at home. No students were required to quarantine due to a positive adult case and no adults were required to quarantine due to a positive case at school.

As always, our best way to protect our students and staff from illness at school is for those who are showing symptoms of illness to stay home. Please continue to screen for symptoms of illness each morning and arrange for testing if COVID-19 is suspected. Thank you for doing your part to keep our school community safe!

Sincerely,

Jim Greydanus
Superintendent