



FREDERICKTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

117 Columbus Road, Fredericktown, OH 43019

Phone: 740.694.2956 Facs: 740.694.0956

www.fredericktownschools.com

Every day, everyone learning and adapting to excel in a changing world

August 31, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning On Wednesday, September 1, 2021, all students will be required to wear face masks on the bus and in the school buildings. Last year was a successful year because we were in school every day, five days a week, wearing face masks, social distancing, using good hygiene practices, and providing vaccination opportunities for staff. Our 2020-2021 student quarantines were primarily from lunch and extracurricular activities when students were not masked.

The single most important responsibility I have is the safety of our students and staff. Since the first day of school, we have had 24 students and staff test positive and 157 students quarantined. We currently have 15 student and staff positive cases and 85 students quarantined.

Below is the research I used in making the decision to have all students wear masks.

Nationwide Children's Hospital, in Columbus, released the following information:

- a rise in COVID cases (doubled in the last week) in the hospital
- 20 children in the hospital due to Covid
- 5 children in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)
- 2 intubated/on ventilators (August 30, 2021)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) state in their Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools:

- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status (August 5, 2021).



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The Ohio Department of Health states:

- The Ohio Department of Health’s goal is to keep K-12 students in school, in-person five days a week. In-person learning is very important for the cognitive, social, and emotional development of our children, and can be conducted safely even in the face of COVID-19, particularly when schools employ layered prevention strategies including masking, social distancing, good ventilation and good hygiene practices, along with vaccination of our teachers and staff. Adopting layered prevention measures in schools now will help ensure students can learn in-person as much as possible this year, and keep children participating in extracurricular activities (August 26, 2021).

The Knox Public Health Department states:

- strongly urges schools to adopt all of the CDC, AAP, and the Ohio Department of Health recommendations for schools this year including universal masking.
- strongly believes that masks are the non-negotiable prevention strategy school leaders must require.
- Masks are a proven method to limit transmission of COVID and, besides vaccines, are the best tools to keep everyone in school as much as possible (August 5, 2021).

The Children’s Hospital Association, representing 68 children’s hospitals (see letter) in our nation, states:

- Everyone should mask responsibly, particularly during school and while attending large gatherings (Children’s Hospital Association, August 29, 2021).

Thank you,
Susan Hayward, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Fredericktown Local Schools