



ROCHESTER
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

Rochester Community Schools

September 6, 2021

Dear RCS Community Members,

We hope you had a wonderful Labor Day weekend. We are excited to be welcoming our students back to the classroom on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021.

RCS appreciates the cooperation of our community as we endeavor to comply with requirements to mitigate the spread of the aggressive delta variant.

As you are aware, the recent Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) [emergency order](#) requires masks be worn by all students, teachers, staff and community members while inside a school building or structure, regardless of vaccination status. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also requires masks to be worn on school buses.

Rochester Community Schools is obligated to follow local, state, and federal emergency orders or the district could be subject to criminal and civil penalties.

RCS families are offered three choices for the safe education of their student: 1) wear a face mask while inside a school building; 2) observe an exemption while inside a school building; or 3) attend the RCS Virtual Campus.

Parents or guardians of students who do not comply with the OCHD emergency order will be asked to pick their child up from school. When requirements on school buses are not met, parents or guardians will be asked to provide an alternate mode of transportation.

Exemptions to the face mask order are:

- Persons in the act of eating or drinking.
- Persons under the age of four years; however, supervised masking is recommended for children who are at least two years of age.
- Persons with developmental conditions of any age attending school for whom it has been demonstrated that the use of a face covering would inhibit the person's access to education. These are limited to persons with an Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, Individualized Healthcare Plan or equivalent.
- Vaccinated teachers who are working with children who are hard of hearing or students with developmental conditions who benefit from facial cues.
- Persons who have a medical reason confirmed in writing from a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) currently licensed to practice medicine in the State of Michigan.

At this time, the OCHD order does *not* exempt persons who object to the mask requirement due to their religious beliefs.

The OCHD mask order for schools will remain in effect until community transmission for Oakland County is categorized as “moderate” by the CDC for at least 14 consecutive days or until further notice from the Oakland County Health Officer.

Health experts agree that vaccines are another important strategy to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As a community courtesy, free COVID-19 vaccines will be offered to interested individuals 12 years old and up through the OCHD on Friday, September 10, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the RCS Administration Building, 501 W. University Drive. No appointment is necessary. Participants are asked to bring a valid photo ID; have a parent or legal guardian in attendance for anyone under 18; wear a mask in the vaccination clinic; and wear clothing that allows the arm to be easily accessible.

RCS recognizes a parent or guardian’s right to direct the care, teaching, and education of their child. However, this right is subject to the district’s obligation to provide for the safety and welfare of its students.

Thank you for continuing to encourage your student to wear a mask; get vaccinated if eligible; wash hands frequently; and stay home when sick. We appreciate your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Shaner
Superintendent