



Community Schools

February 17, 2022

Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

The Michigan Health and Human Services Department (MDHHS) sent an update yesterday regarding their new recommendations for school settings ([MDHHS Update](#)). In this update, they identified three phases for monitoring and responding to COVID-19. The phases include the following:

- Response Phase
- Recovery Phase
- Readiness Phase

MDHHS has dropped their recommendation for students masking in the school setting now that we have entered the *Recovery Phase*. Gull Lake Community Schools is aligning with this new guidance and will be returning to a **masks optional** protocol beginning this coming Monday, February 21st. We will continue to provide well-fitted masks for those who request them and recognize mask wearing as a layered protective strategy for mitigating the potential spread of COVID-19 in the school setting. Consider using a KN95 or equivalent mask to further enhance protection. Federal law still requires mask wearing on our bus transportation and remains in effect until further notice.

Please review the updated [Nurse's Notes](#) for additional information on health protocols for COVID-19 positive students and ill/symptomatic students. The district will continue to notify families and staff regarding confirmed positive cases in the classroom and cafeteria settings. We will also operate the daily rapid antigen testing site for your convenience. If the District enters a new phase, we will update everyone regarding any potential changes in health protocols.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Raphael Rittenhouse'.

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools