



Urbana City Schools

Dedicated to Excellence

711 Wood Street – Urbana, Ohio 43078

937/653-1402 – 937/652-3845 Fax

www.UrbanaCitySchools.org

Charles Thiel
Superintendent

Mandy Hildebrand
Treasurer

September 22, 2021

Dear Urbana City School Families,

At their meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2021, the Urbana City School District Board of Education took action to implement a universal face mask requirement for all students and staff in the school buildings starting on Monday, September 27, 2021.

This proactive step was taken as a means to reduce the potential transmission of the COVID-19 virus within the staff and student population of the District. Since the start of the school year there have been an increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff. Each of these positive cases generally results in the required quarantine of three to five students.

This fall, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number students who are absent from school for illness. Although many of these students may not be identified as COVID-19 positive, the addition of face masks should have a positive impact on reducing the potential for viral spread in the school setting.

The Ohio Department of Health has recommended during this school year that districts implement the layered prevention strategies that were remarkably effective at controlling COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year. These include strongly recommending vaccination for those who are eligible; strongly recommending use of face masks in PK-12 settings; maximizing distance between people; prompt identification and providing appropriate care for people exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19; practicing good hygiene; and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection. With layered prevention strategies in place, more students will be able to remain in the classroom and continue participating in sports and other extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

Attached to this letter is a ***MASK WEARING REQUIREMENT GUIDANCE*** document with additional information about the implementation of this requirement. As stated earlier, the plan is to use the same expectations as last year in regards to the wearing of face masks.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this on-going pandemic as we continue to work to provide the best educational experience possible for the children of the Urbana community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 937-653-1402.

Sincerely,

Charles Thiel, Superintendent

Board of Education: – Jim Arter – Jan Engle – Sarah Finch – Amy Paul – Darrell Thomas

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

MASK WEARING REQUIREMENT GUIDANCE
Urbana City School District
September 21, 2021

- Wearing a cloth face mask or face covering is required for all staff and all students in grades PK-12 in the Urbana City School District starting on Monday, September 27, 2021.
- All guests and visitors in the school buildings will be required to wear face masks. This includes all activities such as parent meetings, athletic events, and student performances starting on Monday, September 27, 2021.
- A face mask or face covering must be worn at all times inside our school buildings when staff or students are:
 - In any indoor location, including, but not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, offices, hallways, restrooms, cafeterias, and/or locker areas.
 - Face masks may be removed when eating and during outdoor recess or outdoor activities
- An acceptable face mask or face covering is any material that covers an individual's mouth, nose, and chin. Face shields are not acceptable unless there is an approved mask exemption on file.
- If a student is unable to wear a face mask due to a documented medical condition a parent must provide documentation from a physician to be considered for a mask exemption which will then require the wearing of a face shield.
- If a student does not bring a face mask to school, they will be offered a mask and expected to wear it. If they refuse to wear the face mask, they will not be able to stay in school. The student's parent/guardian will be called and the student must be picked up from school. The student cannot return to school until they follow the district's masking procedures. Time missed from school due to not wearing a face mask may be unexcused.
- Staff may remove their face masks if they are working alone in an office or alone in a classroom.
- Students may be provided with face mask breaks per District guidelines.
 - Students are seated, working independently
 - Socially distanced at least three feet or more
 - Maximum of 5-8 minutes per class period
- Federal orders mandate that face masks are required on school buses. All students and staff are required to wear a face mask on school buses. The face mask mandate on buses also applies to athletics, extracurriculars, and/or field trips.
- Outside organizations not affiliated with the Urbana City School District, who utilize our buildings, are also required to have all participants wear face masks.