



Kevin Polston
Superintendent of Schools

Office of Superintendent

Kentwood Public Schools
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February 23, 2022

Dear KPS Families,

Last week, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) issued a [statement](#) announcing the expiration of all public health orders related to COVID-19. Fortunately, COVID-19 numbers are falling steadily, and hospitalizations and deaths are also decreasing. While KPS is currently experiencing the lowest case counts of the school year, COVID-19 will continue to be a factor. However, the time has come to begin easing some of the district's COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

What does this mean for KPS students?

1. Effective **Monday, February 28, 2022**, KPS will no longer require students or staff to wear face coverings in school. Face coverings are still encouraged, and any student or staff member that chooses to wear one will have the support of the district to do so.
2. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [order](#) requiring face coverings on public transportation, including school buses, is still in effect.
3. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) public health [code](#) requires isolation for individuals who test positive for COVID-19. Families must continue reporting when their child tests positive for COVID-19 to their school. As has been our practice throughout the pandemic, KPS will work with families to identify the isolation dates based on current CDC guidelines.
4. KPS will no longer send daily letters to each family notifying of a positive case, and will move to weekly notification letters. KPS will continue to report positive cases to the KCHD, and maintain the Kent ISD (KISD) [COVID dashboard](#).
5. All other mitigation strategies will continue including a recommendation for vaccines for eligible staff and students, increased ventilation, increased cleaning of high touch areas, self-screening for symptoms associated with COVID-19, and regular hand washing and sanitizing.

At KPS, our first concern is the health and safety of our staff and students. Even though the pandemic is showing signs of weakening, COVID-19 will continue to infect people, similar to the flu or common cold. As always, we will continue to keep you informed of new statements, guidelines and orders from the KCHD, MDHHS, and CDC. If COVID-19 numbers increase again, consideration will be given to take the steps necessary to keep students and staff safe and healthy. Our goal remains keeping students in school as safely as possible.

Thank you for your patience and support throughout the pandemic. Your partnership has been vital in our efforts to keep the community healthy. Please continue to monitor your child for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and keep them at home if they show symptoms of sickness. Together, we can ensure the wellness of our students, staff, and the community!

Go Falcons!

Kevin Polston