



**Kevin Polston**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of Superintendent**

**Kentwood Public Schools**  
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Dear KPS Families,

In our continued commitment to keep you informed on conditions related to the pandemic, this letter serves as an update for the school year at the conclusion of our sixth week of school. I have been incredibly proud of our students and staff and their commitment to following our mitigation plan. Our key strategies include vaccines for eligible staff and students, increased ventilation, increased cleaning of high touch areas, students in grades PK-12 and staff required face coverings, self screening for symptoms associated with COVID-19, regular hand washing and sanitizing, and social distancing to the extent feasible. Below are some key data points as of September 28, 2021:

- Student cases\*: 67
- Staff cases\*: 11
- Positivity rate\*\*: 12.1% (Kent County last 7 days)
- Transmission rate\*\*: 250 (Number of cases per 100,000 last 7 days)
- Outbreaks: 0
- School closings: 0
- Vaccine rates in Kentwood\*\*:
  - Ages 12-16: 45%
  - Ages 17+: 71%

\*Source: Kent ISD [Dashboard](#)

\*\*Source: Kent County Health Department Covid [Dashboard](#)

Considering that every day more than 9,000 students attend KPS for in-person learning and more than 1,500 staff report in-person to support our students, our mitigation measures appear to be working. There is no change in our mitigation plan at this time. KPS will continue to evaluate conditions as they evolve to determine if, and when, changes can be made to the plan.

In regards to face coverings, you may have heard that the state budget passed this week in Lansing prohibits local health departments from making mandates for face coverings. Both Governor Whitmer, and the Kent County Administrator, Al VandenBerg, declared this provision in the budget to be unconstitutional. Please see this [letter](#) from Mr. VandenBerg to the Kent County Commissioners. The safety of our students, staff, families, and community will always be our top priority and KPS will continue to follow guidance from local, state, and national public health officials in decisions for health and safety.

I invite you to join us on October 15th for a community celebration at our last home football game at East Kentwood High School. There will be activities for children, and anyone with a vaccine card will get free admission to the game. We are also I thank you for all you have done to keep our community safe!

Go Falcons!

Kevin Polston