



**Kevin Polston**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of Superintendent**

**Kentwood Public Schools**  
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November 5, 2021

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 through the month of October. I continue to be impressed with the commitment to follow our mitigation plan by both students and staff. Below are some key data points as of November 4, 2021:

- Student cases\*: 195 (128 since September 28, 2021)
- Staff cases\*: 29 (18 since September 28, 2021)
- Positivity rate\*\*: 17.4% (Kent County last 7 days)
- Transmission rate\*\*: 214 (Number of cases per 100,000 last 7 days)
- Outbreaks: 2
- School closings: 0
- Vaccine rates in Kentwood\*\*:
  - Ages 12-16: 46%
  - Ages 17+: 73%

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

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

Our key mitigation strategies remain: 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.

As you may have [read](#), the Kent County Health Department announced the face covering mandate for grades pre-K-6th will expire on January 2, 2021. Throughout the pandemic, Kentwood Public Schools has used data and evidence to inform decision making for our mitigation plan. Over the coming weeks, we will carefully review data and consult with public health experts to determine if changes to our mitigation plan are needed. Any changes to our mitigation plan will be communicated to families well in advance of implementation.

This week, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) granted Emergency Use Authorization to the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 - 11 years old. You can read more information [here](#) from the FDA. Evidence has demonstrated that communities with higher vaccination rates have lower transmission rates of COVID-19. Parents interested in scheduling the vaccine for their child should visit <http://vaccinatewestmi.com>, contact their health care provider, or schedule through an eligible pharmacy.

KPS, in collaboration with the Kent County Health Department and area pediatricians, will host a series of information sessions for parents to ask questions about the COVID-19 vaccine for children. These sessions will be a chance for parents to learn more information about the vaccine from doctors and ask questions. Dates and locations will be announced in a future communication.

Go Falcons!

Kevin Polston