



**Kevin Polston**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of Superintendent**

**Kentwood Public Schools**  
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Dear KPS Families,

In our continued commitment to keeping you informed on matters of importance, this letter serves as an update on COVID guidance and requirements for schools from the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This week, the KCHD issued a new [Public Health Order](#) (PHO) that replaced all existing orders to align with MDHHS and CDC guidelines. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we are working closely with the KCHD as they provide guidance to our community. We will continue to keep in-person instruction for every student, every day as safely as possible as our goal. Below is a summary of how KPS will implement the updated guidance:

- **Isolation:** Students or staff that test positive for COVID are required to have a **5 day isolation period** at home. Persons who are asymptomatic, or fever-free without medication and with symptoms largely resolved, may return to school wearing an appropriate well-fitting mask on day 6.
- **Contact Tracing:** The KCHD has deemed the number of cases of COVID-19 in all settings have exceeded the case investigation and contact tracing capacity of the public health system and its partners, including schools. Contact tracing is no longer required. Therefore, **KPS will pause contact tracing** to redeploy staff to supporting in-person learning.
- **Household close contacts for unvaccinated individuals (if symptom free):**
  - Household close contacts will have a 10 quarantine period
- **Household close contacts for fully vaccinated individuals (if symptom free) do NOT have to quarantine if they meet the KCHD definition of fully vaccinated below:**
  - Anyone 18 or older who has received all recommended COVID vaccine doses, including boosters
  - Anyone age 5-17 must have completed the primary series of COVID vaccine doses
  - Anyone who has a confirmed case of COVID within the last 90 days

KPS will continue with our existing mitigation plan that includes the following key strategies:

- Vaccine access
- Universal face covering for staff and students
- Increased ventilation
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing
- Self-screening for symptoms associated with COVID and staying home when sick
- Regular hand washing or use of hand sanitizer

We will continue to inform you of changes as conditions evolve. Your partnership in supporting the wellbeing of our school community has been essential to the district remaining open for in-person instruction each day. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we partner to work through these challenging times.

Go Falcons!

Kevin Polston