

## **Holly Area Schools**

## Excellence in Action!

August 6, 2021

Dear Holly Area Schools Families and Staff,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the remaining days of summer. As we continue to prepare for the 2021 – 22 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to share some updates.

While there have been additional COVID-19 guidance/recommendations released, no epidemic orders, laws/mandates have been issued from our county or state health department or any governmental agency. Our position remains to support our families and staff to make the personal choice of wearing a mask at our school buildings and school events. With that being said, there is one mandate that we have confirmed and that is the requirement for students and staff to wear masks on public transportation, including school buses, per <u>Federal Order</u> (set to expire September 13). Students in our summer programs will be required to wear a mask on our buses beginning Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 cases in our area. The current cases in our school district are extremely low. Also, Oakland County has one of the highest vaccination rates in the State and this number continues to increase. This continues to be a key strategy for maintaining in-person learning. Together with state and local health authorities, education leaders are strongly recommending that all eligible students, teachers, staff, and household members get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible when supported by their medical advisor.

See the description below of the Return to School Components.

Not required in buildings or on school campuses. The voluntary wearing of masks at school is encouraged by state and federal health officials. It is important that we respect one another's personal choice in this area, understanding that there are varying tolerances, comfort levels, and circumstances affecting this decision.
Required on public transportation, including school buses, per <u>Federal Order</u> (set to expire September 13).

Physical Distancing	Not required.
COVID-19 Screening/Testing/Vaccination	Not required. <u>COVID-19 vaccination</u> is encouraged for all eligible individuals.
Ventilation	Ventilation systems in buildings will continue to operate to original design specifications. On school buses, windows may be opened slightly when safe and practicable.
Staying home when sick/getting tested	Staff and families are expected to use good judgment, stay home when they are sick, and report absences according to our attendance policies.
Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation & Quarantine	This practice has been currently suspended.
Cleaning & Disinfection	Standard daily cleaning protocols using products approved by the CDC to be effective against the COVID-19 virus.

We continue to support parents and guardians in making personal choices based on what's best for their families. For our planning, we will continue to monitor the local COVID-19 metrics and follow any mandates/laws.

In the weeks ahead, we will share exciting news about new programs and initiatives that further support and accelerate achievement across our district. We are also excited to introduce new staff to our Broncho Team.

As always, it is a true honor to serve as your Superintendent.

#BronchoStrong #BronchosUnited

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper, Superintendent