



August 16, 2021

Dear Montrose Families:

On August 5, 2021 I published a letter outlining the protocols for staff and students for the 2021-22 school year. I indicated that while this would be the expectations for the time being, there is the possibility of change depending on the guidance and recommendations from the Genesee County Health Department.

Within the communication the following bullet point was included:

- **Face Masks** – Montrose Community Schools will follow the directive from the Genesee County Health Department by recommending face masks be worn over the nose and mouth for all staff and students. At this time it is not a requirement. **This is the most recent directive from the Genesee County Health Department, but we must recognize this could change.** In accordance with CDC guidance, no disciplinary action should be taken against a student who does not have a mask. Additionally, individuals who wish to continue to wear a face covering will be encouraged and supported in this choice.

On Thursday, August 12, 2021 the Genesee County Health Department released an Order that applies to Education Settings within Genesee County, Michigan. The order contains the following information:

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Educational Institutions and all Persons in Educational Settings must adhere to the following rules:

1. The Educational Institutions shall ensure that children in kindergarten through grade six consistently and properly wear a facial mask covering both nose and mouth while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.
2. The Educational Institutions shall ensure that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, providing service to any child in kindergarten through grade six, and all persons providing service to students identified as medically fragile regardless of age, properly and consistently wear a facial mask while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following terms shall have the following definitions for purposes of this ORDER:

- a. "Educational Institutions" or "Educational Settings" includes youth camps, youth programs, childcare centers, tutoring centers, preschools, primary through secondary schools, vocational schools, colleges, and universities and other organized activities outside the home where coursework is taught.
- b. "Fully vaccinated persons" means persons for whom at least two weeks has passed after receiving the final dose of an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- c. "Persons in Educational Settings" means students K through grade 6, teachers, administrative staff, attendees, volunteers or students older than grade 6 who may be present in the educational setting of younger students, coaches, camp leaders, and other employees or volunteers of Educational Institutions. This also applies to teachers and staff working with or in the classroom of medically fragile or neurodivergent students of any age.

For the complete order please visit this website.

<https://www.gchd.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/GCHD-Masking-Final-Medical-Health-Officer-PBH-August-12.-2021-004.pdf>

The Order mandates that facemasks be worn while indoors by students in grades K-6, the staff working with those students, attendees, and volunteers. Any student that is older than K-6 and sharing a classroom with them must also wear a mask while sharing the space. Montrose Community Schools will follow that order.

As it pertains to 7-12 students, Montrose Community Schools will continue to follow the August 5, 2021 communication for the Genesee County Health Department and recommend that students in grades 7-12, staff, parents and visitors wear facemasks inside of the building, regardless of vaccination states.

Montrose Community Schools does not reserve the authority to defy a lawful Order from the Genesee County Health Department. Montrose Community Schools is obligated to follow the Order and will comply. Parents, guardians and community members who have objections about the Order should direct their concerns to the Genesee County Health Department.

We will continue to follow the guidance and implement any requirements mandated by the health department. I appreciate the support of the community as we continue to navigate this difficult situation. I understand this information may change the approach some families had intended to take for the upcoming school year. Just like last year, we intend to be supportive and helpful as possible as you make decisions in the best interest of your children.

Finally, please note that each school's respective Open House is scheduled for August 18 (5:00-7:00 p.m.). Masks will be required in areas that serve students in grades PreK-6. Please try to find time to join us.

Until then, enjoy the rest of summer.

Go Rams!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Moore', written in a cursive style.

Linden A. Moore, Ph.D.
Superintendent