



Manchester Community Schools

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Manchester Community,

As we continue our preparations for the 2021-2022 school year in the Manchester Community Schools, we wanted to offer an instructional and logistical update to all of you for your planning for the Fall of 2021 and the upcoming school year. The following offers updates from our original school district plan from July 7, 2021 and the recommendations shared with us by the Washtenaw County Health Department this week on August 9th. We are also sharing the Washtenaw County Health Department's update in an attachment within the Schoolmessenger message for your review so that everyone understands the requirements of the district, as well as the recommendations. Again, please understand that the Manchester Community Schools will always be in compliance with required orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Washtenaw County Health Department, and all other lawful orders and requirements.

In addition to sharing our updated plan, we are also sharing with you some of the resources and websites that we monitor on a daily basis concerning the numbers of positive cases and close contact quarantines in our school district and within our community.

Our facial covering and masking protocols have not changed since the easing of requirements for the summer and our summer camps and credit recovery programs. We have been operating with "Optional Masks" and have not had any positive cases or close contacts to report throughout this time. With the update this week of four positive cases within the 48158 zip code within the last two weeks, we are continuing with our plan of optional masks for all students and staff in Grades Kindergarten through Twelfth grade. We'll also be continually monitoring our district and area data on a weekly basis to make adjustments accordingly if needed. Please know that masks are optional and recommended, and are not being banned or discouraged. We will support and respect the choice of families and students that choose to wear a mask throughout this time, and we will assist students in wearing them and intervene if masking issues arise.

Other requirements that we will continue to incorporate into our protocols are the mandated reporting of positive cases and close contact tracing students and staff to the Washtenaw County Health Department and the continuation of our weekly and monthly dashboard data around positive cases and quarantined individuals within each building in the district.

This week, we are currently at 7.3 daily new cases per 100,000 residents in Washtenaw County. The CDC guidelines consider a county a "Hot Spot" if they had 50 or more daily new cases per 100,000 residents and should move to facial coverings indoors. The following data pieces are from the Washtenaw County Health Department and the COVID ActNow website for our county. They include:



Washtenaw County, MI



Cases

DAILY NEW CASES INFECTION RATE POSITIVE TEST RATE
● **7.3** PER 100K ● **1.11** ● **3.0%**



Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Cases in Washtenaw County Residents by Zip Code (as of 8/5), updated weekly

Zip code of Residence	Total Lab-Confirmed Cases	Probable Cases	% of population who are confirmed or probable	Confirmed Cases in last two weeks (as of 8/4) included in total
48103	2457	273	4.91%	33
48104	4083	365	10.44%	32
48105	1317	130	4.02%	17
48108	1518	181	6.13%	18
48109	859	102		0
48118	892	99	7.46%	16
48130	926	93	6.42%	17
48137	71	5	5.28%	0
48158	439	43	6.48%	4

Two-week Snapshot (Confirmed cases diagnosed from 7/22 to 8/4), updated weekly

Note: This snapshot is intended to provide information on areas of highest risk/concern.

Number of cases in Washtenaw County residents	269
Weekly test positivity rate (from MI Safe Start)	3.4%
% hospitalized	6%

Also, we are including further detail on our Remote Learning option for the 2021-2022 school year within the Manchester Community Schools. For grades Kindergarten through Sixth Grade, we will be incorporating the use of the Lincoln Learning platform which will be taught by Lincoln Learning staff with support from the Manchester Community Schools staff. This learning platform is largely asynchronous and will not have remote video tie-ins with our in-person teaching staff. Later this week, we'll also be sharing a Manchester Community Schools specific Demo site for your review. We are including links to this platform for your review:

[The Lincoln Learning Instructional Platform](#)

[Lincoln Learning Home Page Demo](#)

For grade Seventh through Twelfth Grade, our Remote Learning platform option will be the Michigan Virtual School, as well as our Edgenuity platform. Again, these courses will be taught by staff from the platform provider and will be largely asynchronous and will not have remote video tie-ins with our in-person teaching staff.

[Michigan Virtual School Learning Platform](#)

With our Remote Learning options, we will require students and families to commit to this decision by semester, with a re-evaluation window taking place at the end of the first semester in December.

Finally, we are happy to announce that the Manchester Community Schools Food Service will be participating again in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program's free breakfast and free lunch program throughout the 2021-2022 school year for ALL Students. All students are eligible for a free breakfast and free lunch throughout the school year. Families will order weekly at the following link:

[MCS Breakfast and Lunch Order Link](#)

Director Lisa Garrison will be sharing further updates as we get closer to the beginning of school.

We will be sharing out with all of you a **Final Choice Planning Survey this Thursday, August 12th for each family to complete by the end of the day on Thursday, August 19th.** We'll certainly be available for questions, calls, and emails throughout this week with further questions regarding this process.

We'll present our return to learning update in a FAQ format using the following questions:

When does school start in the MCS?

The First Day of School in the Manchester Community Schools is **Monday, August 30, 2021 and is a Full Day of School.** Please use the following link to access our Calendar Page and Click on the "2021-2022 District Calendar" link:

[MCS District Calendar Page](#)

When is the MCS Open House?

The Manchester Community Schools will hold our Open House event for Klager Elementary, Riverside Intermediate, and Manchester Jr./Sr. High School on **Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.**

What is Manchester's Instructional Plan for the 2021-2022 school year?

We will be holding in-person instruction five days per week for all Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade students.

Will there be an online/virtual option for our students?

Yes, fully Virtual Instruction will be provided for our Kindergarten through Sixth Grade students using the Lincoln Learning Virtual Platform and for our Seventh through Twelfth Grade students using the Michigan Virtual School and Edgenuity Platforms for those families choosing to select the Virtual Option.

Will the MCS provide Hotspot and Internet Connectivity opportunities?

Yes. The district will continue to work with Verizon Wireless and offer an internet connection package priced at school rates and usage for families that selected this option during the 2020-2021 school year and for families that would like to choose this connectivity support for the 2021-2022 school year and contract with Verizon. This update in pricing and continuation of previous services and desire to begin a new Hotspot plan will be distributed the week of August 16th. We'll also be offering our Hotspot Scholarship program for families that qualify again this year during the 2021-2022 school year.

Will face masks or facial coverings be required at school?

If the current requirements, and the status of the COVID-19 virus or any of the variants of the COVID virus remain as they are, the use of facial coverings and masks will be an option for all students and staff in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Will students be required to have the COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend the Manchester Community Schools?

No. The district cannot currently require that students receive the COVID-19 vaccination or to require that students and staff disclose this medical information to us. Because of that, students or staff will not be separated by vaccine status.

Will COVID-19 contact tracing continue in the 2021-2022 school year?

School districts are required to report communicable diseases to the local health department, and positive COVID-19 cases will continue to be reported to the Washtenaw County Health Department. We will also share all of our contact tracing information with the WCHD.

Will Manchester quarantine students who have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus?

No. Any quarantine restrictions will come from the local health department. MCS will no longer be notifying specific families of quarantining exposed individuals. This has always been the responsibility of the Washtenaw County Health Department, and they will be completing the notification process with close contact families. If the Washtenaw County Health Department does order that a student is required to be quarantined, the Manchester Community Schools will certainly enforce that restriction.

Will the MCS continue the implementation of protective barriers and social distancing?

We will leave protective barriers in place for the upcoming school year. Regarding social distancing, these orders have expired, but we will continue to try to meet the three feet and six feet recommendations of distance throughout the various settings in school.

Will student athletes be required to test for COVID-19 in order to participate in athletics?

No. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan High School Athletic Association have lifted all requirements for COVID-19 testing as of June 22, 2021.

What will cleaning and sanitizing practices look like this school year?

We will continue to be committed to high level disinfection practices, including the continued providing of hand sanitizer and various hand sanitizing locations and visible signage for all

students and staff. MCS custodial staff members will continue to use antibacterial and antiviral products to disinfect commonly touched surfaces on a regular basis.

What will transportation look like for the 2021-2022 school year?

We will offer transportation services to all Manchester School families. Face masks are required per CDC order, and all students riding Manchester Community Schools busses will be required to wear masks. This includes any students using the transfer bus service after school.

As we stated in our various communications and summer updates, it is our goal for the 2021-2022 school year to return to in-person, five-day per week instruction and as “normal” of a school year as possible. As mentioned earlier in this communication, the above plans are subject to change based on any required and lawful order from the State of Michigan, The Michigan Department of Education, and the various health and human services departments. As has been our continuing practice, we will continue to monitor these orders and requirements, as well as the status of the COVID-19 virus and variants in our schools and our surrounding community, but I wanted all of you to have clear communication as to our current plans for the upcoming school year.

We are excited for the coming school year, and we look forward to welcoming all of you back to school for the 2021-2022 school year.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this initial update and planning.

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