



BPS is committed to Character Education

Honesty/Integrity ~ Respect/Kindness ~ Responsibility/Accountability ~ Positive Attitude

Monday, Aug. 16, 2021

Dear BPS Families,

Beginning Monday, Aug. 23, BPS will require all students and staff in grades pre-K through 8 to wear masks during indoor activities. Students and staff in 9-12 and post-secondary will be required to wear masks while our county is in the Substantial or High [transmission levels](#) as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Currently, Oakland County is in High transmission. This will continue for the start of school, beginning Monday, Aug. 30. This shift from our communication on July 19 represents our continued commitment to review data and focus on keeping students in school for the duration of the school year.

On July 19, we shared our protocols for the 2021-22 school year. At that time, our level of community transmission in Oakland County was Moderate, and the CDC and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) strongly recommended masks for unvaccinated individuals only.

Since our July communication, MDHHS has released two updates. The latest [update from MDHHS](#) strongly recommends that school districts require masks. Today, the BPS Central Leadership Team spoke with the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) to clarify anticipated guidance. A vital factor in our decision was the statement from OCHD that quarantines may be eliminated when an individual is vaccinated or both parties are masked and at least 3 feet apart from one another. Our focus is to provide a full year of in-person learning and our new guidelines will aid in keeping our students in school for the duration of the school year.

Mask mandates to support in-person learning

A driving factor at play this year is to keep our students in person for the duration of the school year. Therefore, following conversations with OCHD and updated recommendations from MDHHS, we will:

- **Mandate masks for all students while indoors for grades Pre-K through 8 during all Low, Moderate, Substantial and High transmission levels.**
- **Mandate masks for students in grades 9-12/Postsecondary when indoors while the county is in the [CDC Transmission level](#) of Substantial or High.**

These precautions will remain in place until Nov. 2, 2021, at which point we will re-evaluate our process. To see the weekly data dashboard for our community, visit the CDC COVID-19 tracking site at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>.

Working together to support in-person learning

Community members have strongly shared the importance of students participating in an in-person school environment. With this in mind and after reviewing the most recent COVID transmission level, BPS adjusted our mitigation measures. Families can support our efforts to keep students in school all year through the following actions:

- Keep children home if they are sick, especially if they display COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status.
- Have your child wear a mask to school each day and pack an additional mask to ensure proper protection. Masks will be made available in all of our facilities for those in need.
- Practice proper hand hygiene and utilize hand sanitizer when handwashing is unavailable. Sanitizing products and stations will be in each of our facilities and buses.
- Explore vaccinations for your family. While vaccinations are a personal choice, there are many opportunities to learn more about the vaccine. BPS will continue to offer vaccination clinics on-site for those seeking the option for themselves or their families. Students must have parent permission to receive the vaccination, and schools will publicize these clinics ahead of time.

Other mitigation measures

View this [COVID Mitigation document](#) to learn more about the mitigation measures and metrics in place this school year. Additionally, principals will be sharing mitigation measures in the upcoming weeks, including lunch protocols and other school-specific practices.

I will also be discussing this with the Board of Education on Tuesday evening at our regular Board of Education meeting. Meetings can be viewed online at www.youtube.com/birminghamps and may be attended in-person beginning at 7 p.m. at the Education and Administration Center, 31301 Evergreen in Beverly Hills.

Thank you for your continued support of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Embekka Roberson

Superintendent