



**CROSWELL-LEXINGTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

May 18, 2021

Dear Croswell-Lexington Families:

Late last week the CDC released a series of changes to their COVID-19 prevention strategies, and subsequently an Emergency order was issued on May 14th from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. During Monday evening's Board of Education meeting, the Board listened to the concerns from parents who presented opposition to having their children wear masks at Cros-Lex Schools.

Because of these latest announcements, there has been conflicting information circulating in our community, state, and across the nation. After taking into consideration parent requests, our District has been advised, by legal counsel to remain in compliance with the CDC, the MDHHS, and the Sanilac County Health Department, and to continue our practiced safety protocols, including facemask wearing, for the remainder of this school year.

Here are a few facts:

1. We have rounded the corner in the pandemic such that the CDC has said fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks outdoors and in most indoor settings.
2. Beginning this week, students in all grade levels who are outside during the school day are no longer required to wear facemasks.
3. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services order requiring facemasks remains in effect with a narrow exception for fully vaccinated individuals. According to our legal counsel, failure to comply with Emergency Order will result with criminal penalties under MCL 333.2253.
4. Cros-Lex school officials are required to make good faith efforts to ensure that all persons (including employees) comply with the facemask requirements, unless they fall into a specified exemption.
5. Failure to abide by the Order has criminal consequences for all involved.

In summary, given the highly regulated educational environment, and the stakes in the event of infection, the District will remain in compliance with the MDHHS through the duration of the order. As the situation changes, or as orders are updated, we will bring you further information.

Thank you for your kind patience during these confusing times!

Sincerely,

Daniel Gilbertson
Superintendent