

## COVID-19 Mask Order

*The only fight we're interested in is the one against COVID-19*

### Key Points for Face Mask Order in grades K-6.

1. The best tool for combating COVID-19 is vaccination.
2. For the population who does not have access, the next best tool is the protection of face masks.
3. Keeping children in school is a high priority since the start of the pandemic
4. Universal Face Masking is effective.
5. The Delta variant is more transmissible and the amount of detectable virus of infected individuals is much higher.
6. Parents of those under 11 years of age do not have a choice to get their child vaccinated since the age group is not yet eligible.
7. This order is time bound to 6 weeks after this age group is eligible and has access to an authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

### Resources:

- CDC Scientific Brief on Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>
- The ABC Science Collaborative findings from June 2021, prior to Delta Variant circulating in Michigan, determined, "masking is an effective strategy to prevent within-school transmission when COVID-19 is circulating and when vaccination is not yet available for all children."  
<https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/year-in-review-path-forward/>
- American Academy of Pediatrics:  
<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- Pursuant to MCL 333.2433-1) A local health department shall continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs, including prevention and control of environmental health hazards; prevention and control of diseases; prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups; development of health care facilities and health services delivery systems; and regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law.
- Under the Michigan Public Health Code local health officers have an obligation to prevent and control infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Data shows vaccine is effective in preventing serious COVID-19 illness and death. Parents of those under 11

years of age do not have a choice to get their child vaccinated since that age group is not yet eligible. Face masks has been proven to reduce risk of transmission of COVID when there is universal masking (all individuals in a space wearing a mask). The delta variant (unlike other variants) has shown that vaccinated individuals can have a high viral load and can transmit the virus to others although they might not have any symptoms.