



August 20, 2021

Dear Coshocton City Schools Community,

Coshocton City Schools made the difficult decision to move forward with requiring masks inside the buildings during school hours after spending a lot of time reviewing information from the CDC, local and state health departments, as well as other education entities. The Board spent time at its regular meeting on Thursday discussing the information and trying to come up with a plan in the best interest of the safety of our students and staff. We want to share with you the **facts** that were reviewed to help us make this decision.

Our decision to implement this policy is based on the following facts:

- The Centers for Disease Controls has recently changed its masking recommendations based on new information on the Delta COVID variant. CDC is now recommending that masks be used in indoor settings in areas of substantial to high transmission rates of new COVID cases. Coshocton County has a **high level of transmission**.
- The CDC recommends **universal indoor masking for all** teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Please visit this link to view the [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#).

- The Ohio Department of Health has **strongly recommended the wearing of masks indoors for students in K-12 settings**.

Please visit this link to view the [ODH K-12 Guidance](#)

- The Ohio Department of Health has provided **requirements for quarantining** for those students who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.

Please visit this link to the [ODH COVID-19 Quarantine Guidelines](#)

- The Coshocton City Health Department **recommends indoor masking for all** students, staff, and teachers.
- Coshocton County has a **31.66% vaccination rate**. These low rates present a substantial risk for infection of COVID illness.
- After the CCS made the decision to require masks, we received the following [letter from the Coshocton Health Department](#) in response.

The Board will review this decision at the regular October Board meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support as we prepare for the upcoming school year. If we continue to work together, we will have a memorable and successful school year.

Sincerely,

David Hire, Superintendent