

January 2, 2022

Dear Parchment Families,

We hope that you all had a good break. We are excited to welcome students and staff back to the buildings tomorrow. As you know, we are currently seeing a significant surge in Covid cases at the local, state and national level. Our local and school district case numbers continue to increase significantly. Unfortunately, we observed a large increase in cases within our district before break as evidenced on our [Covid dashboard](#). These cases were observed from both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. We will continue to prioritize in-person learning for students and know how important it is to keep our schools open.

The Parchment School District will require face coverings during the regular school day for all students and staff while indoors beginning tomorrow through the month of January. This is a requirement for all grade levels. (Y5-12) We will reevaluate this policy at the end of this time period. We understand that this announcement is coming to you relatively late but we believe that we must do everything we can to combat the current surge in Covid cases we are observing to keep students and staff safe while keeping our schools open.

The District is also continuously updating our protocols for responding to school related close contacts and quarantining:

- Universal masking will reduce the number of “close contacts” in the school setting thus reducing potential exposure and quarantines.
- We will continue to offer the “Test to Stay” option for students who have been in close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19. You will be notified if your student has been identified as a close contact. They will be able to attend school on days 1 and 2 after exposure. Days 3, 5 and 7 they can be tested by school personnel, and if negative, may remain in school. This eliminates the need to quarantine from a school exposure.

Due to staffing shortages/illness, we will have bus route cancellations this week. For Monday, Bus Routes #16-3 and #16-12 will be canceled. Further information can be found on the [district website](#) and social media.

We fully anticipate a continued increase Covid cases as we return from the holiday season and want to do everything in our power to keep students, staff and our community healthy while reducing interruptions to in-person learning. We encourage you to get tested if you were potentially exposed to Covid over break. It remains vital that you keep your children home if they are sick to help reduce the spread of all illness, including Covid, in our schools.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support.

Jason P. Misner
Superintendent