

The background is a solid purple color. Four hands, each holding a large puzzle piece, are positioned around the central text. The top-left hand is light-skinned with a yellow sleeve, holding a red puzzle piece. The top-right hand is light-skinned with a blue sleeve, holding a green puzzle piece. The bottom-left hand is dark-skinned with a red sleeve, holding a blue puzzle piece. The bottom-right hand is light-skinned with a green sleeve, holding a yellow puzzle piece. The puzzle pieces are arranged in a square pattern, with their interlocking edges facing towards the center.

# MPSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

August 24, 2021  
7:00 PM

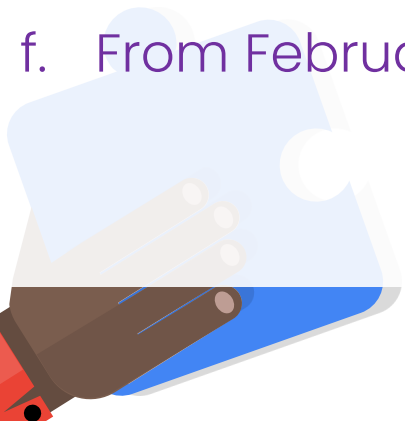
# GOALS

1. Keep MPSD students, staff and families safe
2. Continue to provide the best educational and social-emotional environment that we can for our educational stakeholders
3. Take the steps necessary to meet the requirement of full in-person instruction at all levels.



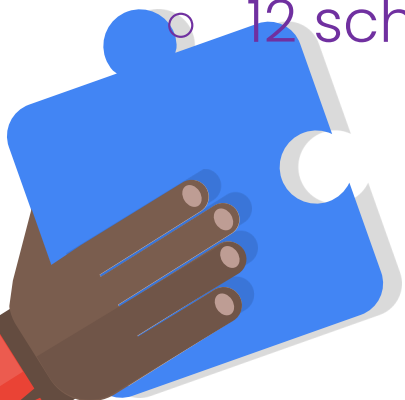
# BACKGROUND

- Covid 19–Seen as one of the worst worldwide pandemics in over 100 years
  - a. Worldwide: over 212 million cases with approximately 4.4 million deaths
  - b. Nationwide: over 37,768,911 million cases and just over 626,833 deaths
  - c. Statewide: over 747,000 cases and 18,179 deaths
  - d. Marshfield: 1,902 cases and 36 deaths
  - e. District (20–21 school year): 398 cases
  - f. From February 2nd through June 15th, 1,819 students and/or staff had to quarantine



# MARSHFIELD INFORMATION

- August 1 thru August 14- Total of 48 cases in Marshfield
  - 16 (33.3%) were children 0-19
  - 4 (8.3%) were adults 70 and older
- May 30th thru July 17th- 13 cases (confirmed/probable) in Marshfield
- July 18 thru August 21st- 86 cases (confirmed/probable) in Marshfield
  - 12 school stakeholders (5 affiliated with summer school)





# RECOMMENDATIONS

# DESE/DPH May-July

- May 2021 – DESE/DPH lifts all health and safety requirements for fall, requires all districts to be fully in person five days per week, removes option for remote learning
- June 2021 – DESE/DPH lifts mask requirement for summer programming and issues mask advisory strongly recommending unvaccinated students and staff wear masks indoors
- July 2021 – DESE/DPH issues guidance strongly recommending masks for all students K-6, and for unvaccinated staff and students grades 7-12 and mandates masks on school buses and in nurse stations



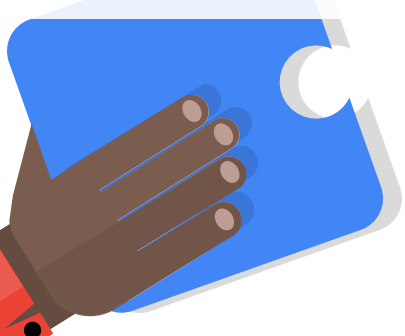
# DESE/DPH– August 24

- Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 24.
- Commissioner Riley recommended that the Board declare exigent circumstances under the Student Learning Time regulations, 603 CMR 27.08 (1), to provide him with the authority to issue a mask mandate for public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades through at least October 1, 2021.
  - **BESE voted 9–1 to grant this authority to Commissioner Riley.**
  - **Commissioner Riley will officially issue the mandate on Wednesday and at that time, the mask rule will go into effect.**
  - **Additional information is being sent to districts to help in the transition to the new protocols.**



# WHAT THIS MEANS

- As of tomorrow's mandate, all students age 5 and older and staff in Massachusetts public schools must wear a mask in school.
- Masks must be worn to be worn on buses/vans (federal mandate)
- This mandate will be in place at a minimum for the month of September and will be revisited by the Commissioner on October 1st.
- Masks DO NOT NEED to be worn during lunch, or anytime students/staff are outside of the school (ie. recess, gym class, mask breaks or outdoor activities)
  - The mask mandate would include an appropriate exemption for individuals who cannot wear a mask for medical or behavioral reasons (with appropriate documentation from physician).





# DISTANCING

- **Per the May guidance handed down by DESE/DPH** there are no physical distancing requirements in place this year, even during meals. However, we recommend that districts and schools encourage individuals to distance as feasible when masks are removed indoors during mealtimes. Schools are also encouraged to continue utilizing outdoor space for meals, as feasible.
- In the follow up guidance provided by DESE/DPH for districts & schools for the fall of 2021, they did note that:
  - **Schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures, but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.**
- We will utilize outdoor space, as we did last year, and will do all we can to implement appropriate distancing within the building when feasible

# CLOSE CONTACT TRACING & QUARANTINING

- “Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.” Infectious period is 48 hours prior to symptoms or prior to test date (if no symptoms).
- Per the DPH: Notifying Local Boards of Health: School nurses must notify the LBOH of every confirmed case of COVID-19 diagnosed in the school community (both students and staff), if the school nurse has not already been notified of such by the LBOH. Parent report of a laboratory confirmed case to the school nurse is sufficient for LBOH notification, as well as a provider diagnosed presumed positive case. This information will assist with conducting contact tracing and determining whether changes in the educational models are warranted.
- To assist in this work, the District will look to use ESSER III funding to increase nursing coverage

# EXEMPTIONS FROM TESTING & QUARANTINING

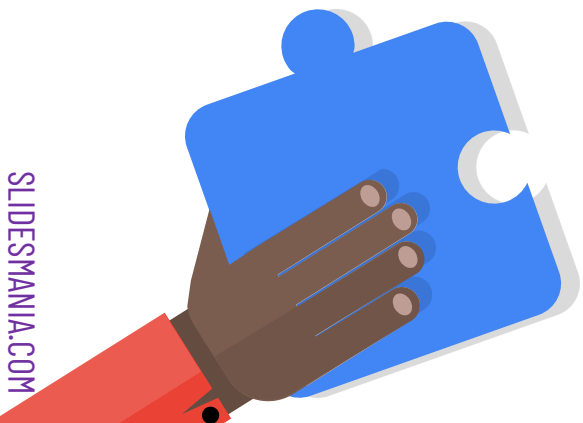
- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts: Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Classroom close contacts: An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Bus close contacts: Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open, are exempt from testing and quarantine protocols. In addition, with students masked, they will not have to have assigned seats.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
  - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
  - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms

# EXPECTATIONS FOR WORK WHEN QUARANTINING

- IF A STUDENT IS OUT DUE TO QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION (in place during the spring):
    - Work will be sent home, or provided via canvas to be worked on independently by the student.
    - There may be a possible check-in during the day with the teachers.
    - With a full class of students, it will be challenging to effectively teach those students and instruct students via zoom. Teachers will need to focus their attention on the full classroom of students in front of them for both instruction and student safety.
    - With few exceptions, as determined by the classroom teacher, live “zoom into the classroom” will not be an option for students at home.
    - Reminder- Districts no longer are allowed to provide remote learning per DESE guidelines.
- Will continue to assess this model and look for ways to best address the needs of our students.**

# ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

- Ventilation- The filters in all HVAC & Roof Units have been replaced and will continue to be monitored. Additional portable classroom air filters also added.
- Handwashing- We will continue to promote hand washing and hand sanitizing practices that were in place last year.
- Staying Home- Students and staff will continue to be encouraged to stay home when sick or when showing any/all of the COVID-19 symptoms (next slide)



# TESTING OPTIONS

- **Test & Stay Protocols:** For schools who opt for “Test & Stay”, individuals who are *school* close contacts can stay in school as long as they are asymptomatic, wear masks and take a *individual* rapid antigen test each day and remain COVID-19 negative.
- **Binax Now- Symptomatic Close Contacts:** Students/staff identified in school, who are deemed close contacts and are symptomatic can be tested immediately in the school, before heading home.
- **Binax Now - Symptomatic Individuals:** Students/staff who during the school day present with Covid-19 symptoms, are placed in the medical waiting room, can be tested immediately in the school, before heading home.
  - Signed up through DESE/DPH, awaiting response, but still looking at logistics of being able to effectively implement these protocols and what resources DESE is able to provide to the district.

# KEYS TO REMEMBER

- **Masks for everyone** when in school. Currently, for the month of September. Revisited by DESE on October 1.
- There is **NO remote or hybrid option**. Full time, in-person instruction 5 days a week
- **Masks on all buses and vans**
- **NO Masks** during lunch (seats will be assigned)
- **NO masks** when students and staff are outside (recess, PE or other outside learning)
- **NO distancing requirements**, though schools should try and provide appropriate distancing when feasible. 3 feet in the classroom and 6 during lunch
- **Visitors and volunteers** allowed in school- while adhering to mask protocols
- **No contact tracing needed on buses** (no assigned seats on buses)
- **When masked and 3 feet apart**- no contact tracing in school
- **Testing opportunities** will be finalized with the school nurses and School Physician



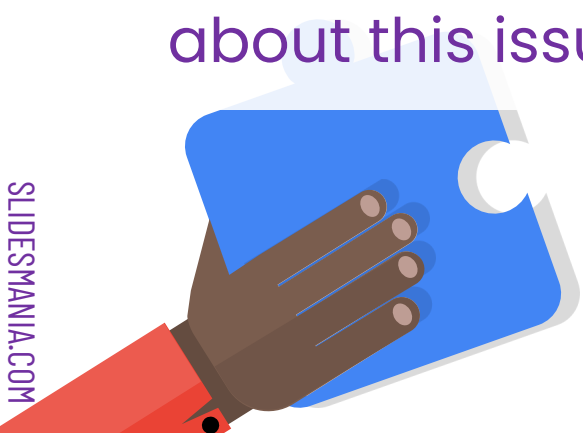
# KEYS TO REMEMBER

- **Sports are up and running.** NO masks when teams outside. Awaiting final word on protocols for sports playing/practicing indoors or any other modifications from MIAA or DESE
- **Field Trips are allowed.** Masking requirements on the bus/vans to and from destination per federal guidelines
- **Currently, no restrictions on band, chorus, clubs, other indoor activities.** Schools are encouraged to maintain distance between individuals as feasible or use outdoor space
- **Cleaning protocols**– Schools will be continuing with successful cleaning protocols established last year
- **Mask Breaks** will continue to take place at all levels
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**– We will continue to have masks available for any student, staff or visitor who wants/needs mask. We will also have hand sanitizer available outside/inside classrooms
- **Nursing stations**– They will continue to have a separate waiting/treatment room for individuals who exhibit possible COVID-19 symptoms. Masks worn at all times



# PUBLIC COMMENT

- The District has consistently sought public comments on this matter that impacts our entire community.
- Through use of [maskupdate@mpsd.org](mailto:maskupdate@mpsd.org), we received over 424 emails from students, parents, guardians and staff. 52% were opposed to mandatory masking with 48% in support of such masking.
- Also received feedback from the MPSD School Physician, the Marshfield Board of Health and the District's Nurse Leader
- Marshfield, like every community in the Commonwealth, feels strongly about this issue and your thoughts and ideas have been heard by the SC.



# MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

- Starting August 30th- celebration of being together! “Better Together”
- Year 3 of “Start with Hello”
  - 9/1-9/7 - “Just say Hello” - name tags
  - 9/8 - “Welcome Back Wednesday” - greeting students at door
  - 9/9 - “Attitude of Gratitude” - creating a culture of gratitude with students & staff
  - 9/10 - “Marshfield Spirit Day - everyone wears Marshfield gear
    - “First Responder Night” - MHS football
- Planned SEL/Mental Health PD throughout the year (ESS & Speakers for staff)
- Revised SEL vision statement to be shared with various stakeholder groups
- Implementation of common district practices (elementary themes all relating to SEL competencies-same vocabulary, same schedule)
- SEL/Mental Health a standing agenda items on PK-12 Leadership Meetings
- Use of 3 signature practices that can be used in meetings and classrooms

# MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

- Elementary focus on small group instruction
- Ability to have partner and group work in classrooms
- Use of outdoor spaces for learning
- Implementation of innovative practices to incorporate more ways to collaborate, communicate
- More lab work at the upper levels
- Effective School Solutions– contracting with district to help provide therapeutic mental health services for students and enhance educator strategies in identifying these challenges in the classroom
- Continued work with district and building SEL Teams
- Added questions for building visits from Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent to focus on SEL activities in each building





# A NEW BETTER

I think when we return to school and begin the covid recovery phase, we ought to have a wild celebration to welcome every student and every colleague back. I want the lingering memory of this time to be the awesome return, not the unfortunate departure.



00:49:59 / 02:06:23



Speed

