

Quincy Community Schools ♦ 1 Educational Parkway ♦ Quincy, MI 49082 ♦ Phone: (517) 639-7141 ♦ Fax: (517) 639-4273
www.quincyschools.org

August 19, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

On Monday, August 23, 2021, Quincy Students are scheduled to return to the classroom for the 2020-2021 school year. The summer seems to have passed by quickly and we are already approaching the fall months. As we enter the new school year, we would like to take some time to discuss our plan to start the year. With COVID-19 still at higher levels in our county, it is important that we all work together to reduce the chances of spreading the virus. We have developed a plan with mitigation strategies that we hope will help us provide a safer environment while at our schools but we will need all of your support to make the plan viable and successful. Many of the strategies used last year will be used again this year. The mitigation strategies being employed by the district are listed in our 2021-2022 School Operations Guide which will be posted on our website. Please understand that any of these things can change quickly depending on different factors that occur such as additional mandates from the local or state health departments. If anything does change, the district may need to revisit some of these protocols and make changes or updates as well.

Masks

Currently MDHHS, the CDC and local health departments are recommending that all students and staff wear a mask while at school but are not requiring masks to be worn. Quincy Community Schools is following the health department and recommending that all staff and students wear masks but are not requiring masks to be worn. The district encourages the use of masks and will provide masks to anyone who wants one and any student, staff member, or visitor is always welcome to wear masks in our schools at their own discretion. Please show grace and support the choices of others. If an individual decides to wear a mask or to not wear a mask we ask that everyone support those choices and work together for the well being of all in our schools.

Social Distancing/Quarantine Procedures

The Branch Hillsdale and St. Joseph Health Department (BHSJHD) will be determining quarantines for any close contact that occurs at our school or on buses. BHSJ has communicated to schools that are returning to in person learning without universal masking (masks are optional) that a close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of a contagious person for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. For schools returning to in-person learning with universal masking (all students in the district required to mask), a close contact is someone who has been within 3 feet of a contagious person for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period. Based on the information above from the health department, close contacts in our school will be determined if a student is within 6 feet of a contagious person for 15 minutes or more. Students are encouraged to practice social distancing as mitigation strategy and to maintain 6 feet between them when possible and avoid congregating in large groups.

School Transportation Plan - Masks Required on School Buses

Currently a federal mandate exists that requires everyone that uses public transportation to wear a mask. The federal government and state and local health departments all confirm that public transportation includes school buses. Therefore, anyone who rides a school bus must wear a mask while on the bus. Based on this mandate from the federal government, **all students on Quincy Community School Buses are required to wear masks while on the school bus.** Hand sanitizer will continue to be available to students for use while entering and exiting the bus. Roof vents and windows will be used as much as possible to supply fresh air for students while on the bus. Buses will also continue to be disinfected between runs.

Arriving at School

Most protocols used at the end of last school year will be used again this year. Doors at the middle and high school will open at 7:45 am and 7:50 am at the elementary.

- High School students that drive or are dropped off use the entrance at the main gym.
- Bus riders are asked to enter the building using the doors at the high school office main entrance or the doors at the commons area.
- The middle school main entrance and the Jefferson Street entrance to the commons area will be open for students that are dropped off.
- Elementary students will enter the buildings and quickly move to their classrooms. Cohorts will be used as we begin the 2021-2022 school year.

Cleaning and Sanitization Practices

The district will continue most cleaning and sanitization practices that have been used in the past year. Hand sanitizer will be available for regular use and whenever possible classrooms will be disinfected before the next school day.

Screening and Safety Protocols

The district will continue to ask that **any student or staff member that is sick or exhibits COVID-19 symptoms remain home** until the symptoms have passed and/or they are not contagious. The district asks parents to screen students before school each day for symptoms of COVID-19. Currently, the school will no longer take student temperatures before entering the bus or at school each day.

Virtual Option

Quincy Community Schools strongly encourages all students to attend classes in person. In many cases, it was very evident that students struggled with fully virtual courses. Therefore, the district will provide virtual instruction to those with extreme situations on a case by case basis. Students that have not been successful in virtual classes prior will be required to attend in person learning. If you believe that your situation does warrant the fully virtual option, please contact your school office or the districts administration building for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Marc Kramer
Superintendent
Quincy Community Schools