



"If you seek a better school, look about you"

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July 20, 2021

Dear L'Anse Area Schools Families,

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer time with family and friends. On June 22, 2021 the COVID-19 epidemic orders and mandates were removed. Over the past several weeks, local school administrators and the local health department have been busy assessing the start of the 2021-22 school year. After thoroughly reviewing the current recommendations from the Center of Disease Control and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as they pertain to K-12 students and COVID-19, we have the following information to share.

The L'Anse Area Schools district will be implementing the following protocol for the 2021-22 school year:

- * Masks will be optional, not required. We will respect the decision of your family to wear or not to wear a mask and ask that you do the same for fellow students and staff. Our summer school programs are not currently requiring masks.
- * We will not require our students or staff to be vaccinated as a condition to attend school or participate in athletics or after school activities. If you are interested in vaccine information, you can call the BCMH COVID Vaccine Hotline at 906-524-3471.
- * We will not require students participating in sports or those that have not been vaccinated to be tested for COVID-19.

We will continue the following practices:

- * Thorough cleaning of the buildings
- * Availability of hand sanitizer
- * Encouraging of healthy habits such as handwashing and covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze



- * Use of the outdoors for classes when practical
- * Increased air exchange rates in the building and frequent changing of filters
- * Offering live streaming of many of our school events for those who are unable to attend
- * Offering a virtual learning option through Edgenuity on a semester at a time basis for students and families who prefer to continue learning remotely. However, our administrative staff encourages students to enroll for face-to-face instruction, as that has been found to be the most effective for student success.
- * Stressing our policy of staying home sick if you have symptoms of illness until you are 24 hours free of symptoms. Daily home screening for symptoms will continue to be important. Continuing with these protocols should also help us decrease the impact of the annual cold and flu season, providing a more healthy environment for our students and staff.

These are our plans for how we will proceed when students return in the fall. Understand that requirements could possibly change if there becomes significant transmission within the school or community. School Superintendents are working with the Health Department on logical steps to take if cases increase significantly. We have the knowledge and experience to take the necessary measures to keep staff and students safe and learning.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we navigate through these challenging times. We trust that our decisions align with professional guidance from the MDHHS and the CDC. The safety of our students and staff will continue to be our top priority. We look forward to seeing your child in school this fall. This year we hope to have as close to a normal year as we possibly can.

Take care and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,



Susan Tollefson

Superintendent

L'Anse Area Schools