



June 1, 2021

Dear SCM Families,

We would like to share some upcoming changes to our COVID-19 health and safety protocols, information on the Summer Feeding Program, and details about the 2021-2022 school year.

MASK MANDATE CHANGES

During the School Board meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, you may have heard that masks would become optional beginning June 1 for all students and staff while on SCM properties, pending any change in guidance from local, state, and/or federal agencies.

However, **on Friday, May 28, 2021, Governor Holcomb [expanded the mask mandate](#) for K-12 schools through June 30, 2021.** This means all students and staff will continue wearing masks as has been the practice since the start of the 2020-2021 school year. This mask mandate extension will also impact students and staff participating in summer school but does allow for masks to be removed when outdoors, even while on school properties.

Secondly, the federal requirement that requires masks/facial coverings while on public transportation remains in place through mid-September. So, **any student who rides an SCM school bus or Transpo will be expected to continue wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth while on the bus** until that federal mandate expires.

SOCIAL DISTANCING, QUARANTINING, AND CONTACT TRACING

While our goal has always been to maintain six feet of physical distance, most classrooms adhered to the minimum requirement of three feet while facing the same direction to which we will continue to the greatest extent possible. Per the Governor's Executive Order, if universal masking occurs in the classroom setting while indoors, rules of quarantine and contact tracing are no longer required. However, notifications of exposure and quarantine rules do still apply in settings outside of the classroom (lunch and athletics). Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 will be expected to isolate following CDC and IDOH guidelines.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS, TESTING, AND VACCINATIONS

We encourage all students, staff, and families to be mindful of how they are feeling, if they are experiencing symptoms common with COVID-19, and the indefinite expectation of increased hand washing. COVID or no COVID, the germ and snot train are real, and a little extra hand washing or sanitizing will serve us all well.

All Hoosiers, whether vaccinated or not, are strongly encouraged to obtain a COVID-19 test if they become symptomatic by visiting www.ourshot.in.gov.

As stated in the Governor's update, all Hoosiers, age 12 and above, are strongly encouraged to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination which will be provided at no cost. A reminder that anyone younger than 18 years of age may only receive the Pfizer vaccine.

Additionally, all individuals who are not fully vaccinated (two weeks past either a second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or two weeks past receiving the single dose of the J&J vaccine) are strongly encouraged to obtain a COVID-19 test if they have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 by visiting www.ourshot.in.gov.

To support these recommendations from the CDC and IDOH, SCM will continue offering in-house testing to any *staff member* who is working over the summer and meets the established eligibility criteria. We will continue to keep you informed on any changes or modifications to the above-mentioned information as new guidance is released from state and local officials.

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

We are happy to offer the Summer Feeding Program again this year. **FREE** meals will be provided to children 18 and under at Beiger Elementary School, John Young Middle School and Mary Gibbard Park. Meals can be picked up Monday-Friday at 12:00 PM-12:30 PM beginning June 7, 2021 and going through July 30, 2021. You can view menus and more details at MishawakaSchools.com/SummerFeeding.

TRANSPO

FREE bus transportation for all John Young Middle School and Mishawaka High School students will continue through the summer. This includes all operational days and times without limitations on weekends, evenings, and holidays by showing their valid student ID card. Face masks that cover the nose and mouth are required on all Transpo buses. Transpo route schedules can be found at MishawakaSchools.com/Transpo.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

All school year calendars are published on the SCM website at MishawakaSchools.com/Calendar. Please review the calendar for the 2021-2022 school year so you and your child(ren) are prepared for the **first day of school on August 11, 2021**.

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

School City of Mishawaka will begin the 2021-2022 school year with five days of in-person learning for all students, K-12. Mishawaka High School will also continue to offer a virtual option to *eligible* students as well.

Thank you to all of our SCM families for your continued patience and flexibility as we have navigated this past year and prepare for another rewarding school year The Mishawaka Way. We wish each of you a relaxing summer and look forward to welcoming back your children to school on August 11.

Sincerely,

Wayne Barker
Superintendent of Schools