



June 28, 2021

Back to School 2021-2022

Dear Lakewood Parents and Community Members,

Last Friday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services released recommendations for schools to prevent transmission of COVID-19. These recommendations were based on current positive vaccination, positive tests, and hospitalization trends across Michigan. The purpose of this communication is to share with you our plans for the 2021-2022 school year knowing that circumstances may change.

What will school look like?

It is our intent to return to as normal a school year as possible within the confines of what we are required, not recommended, to do. It is important to understand that those requirements come from local sources (Ionia and Barry-Eaton Health Departments), the State (MDHHS, MIOSHA, and MHSAA) and the Federal government (CDC), which often appear to be in conflict with one another.

What will instruction look like?

All students will be expected to attend in-person five days a week following the published school calendar: <https://www.lakewoodps.org/cms/lib/MI02212290/Centricity/Domain/4/21-23StuCal.pdf>

The District will return to limited remote learning options based on offerings provided in school years prior to March, 2020, primarily at the secondary level for courses not offered in the Lakewood Public Schools or when there is a course schedule conflict outside the control of the student.

When does school start?

Students first day of school is Wednesday, August 18th.

When are the Back to School Open Houses?

Back to School Open Houses, Student Orientations, and other opening school activities will be provided in the back to school edition of the Viking View and from individual school communications.

Will student breakfast and lunch offerings continue to be “free” during the 2021/2022 school year?

The Federal Government will continue to underwrite the cost to provide School Class A breakfast and lunch to students free of charge. A la carte items (i.e., cookies, chips, bottles of water, etc.) will have to be purchased through students’ established pre-paid food service accounts.

Even though School Class A breakfasts and lunches will be provided free, it is critically important that families that qualify for what is normally referred to as the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program, apply for this program because the District receives additional Federal money for reading and math, at-risk student, and English language learning support based on the percentage of approved district applications.



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Are face masks required at school?

Face masks are an example of the difference between what MDHSS currently recommends and what it currently requires. Because face masks are recommended, they will be optional in the Lakewood Public Schools and provided by parents/guardians as long as the local or state health department does not require them.

Will students be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine to attend school?

No.

Will students be separated in classrooms based on who is vaccinated and who is not?

No.

Will contact tracing continue?

Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24-hours regardless of the communicable disease. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to the local health department of residence.

Will students be required to quarantine?

Not by the Lakewood Public Schools. This does not prevent a local health department from requiring quarantine for 1) a close contact to a positive case in the home or community, or 2) an “outbreak” in the school setting.

What is an “outbreak” again?

The definition of an “outbreak” is two or most positive cases that are directly related.

Will student-athletes be required to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?

No, MDHHS and MHSAA lifted all requirements for student-athlete testing on June 22, 2021.

Please take the time to watch this video regarding some of the positive things occurring this summer and in anticipation of the 2021-22 school year:

<https://youtu.be/COGf66EAIBU>

Thank you for all you do to keep yourself and our community safe,



Steven C. Skalka
Superintendent, Lakewood Public Schools