



Harbor Springs Public Schools

Excellence in Character
Excellence in Education

June 29, 2021

Dear Harbor Springs Public Schools Community:

Hopefully, you and your family have settled into a relaxing summer break. As I have mentioned before, it is with great pride that Harbor Springs Public Schools was able to maintain face-to-face instruction throughout the 2020-21 school year. This was a combined effort of the entire school community. We were diligent in following our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan which was Board approved last September. This plan expired at the end of the school year.

On June 17, 2021, Governor Whitmer announced the [Recession of MDHHS Emergency Orders](#), including the wearing of facial covering/masks, effective June 22, 2021. Since then, MDHHS has issued [Interim Recommendations for Operating Schools Safely When There Is COVID-19 Community Transmission](#) which includes a “layered” approach for the mitigation of COVID. These recommendations are not mandates. Boards of Education are not required to approve COVID mitigation plans for the 2021-22 school year.

Because of the current low rates and risk level in Emmet County for COVID transmission, including the number of positive cases and COVID hospitalization admissions, Harbor Springs Public Schools will no longer require face coverings to be worn on school premises and buses. However, consistent with CDC and MDHHS recommendations, students, staff, and visitors who are unvaccinated are **strongly encouraged** to wear face coverings while indoors.

HSPS will continue to comply with all federal, state, and local mandates regarding COVID protocols and mitigation. Students, staff, and parents should engage in daily health screening prior to coming to school and should stay home if they are sick. We will continue to closely monitor local transmission rates, positive cases, and hospitalization admissions and adjust our protocols, if warranted. Additionally, we will continue to work closely with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, consult with them frequently, and report positive school cases to our community.

The Board of Education stands firm that the safety, health, and well-being of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost priority. This priority can be met as we balance the return to normal school routines as long as the risk levels remain low in our community.

As we head into July, I wish nothing but the best for our entire school community. The start of the 2021-22 school year will be here before we know it. Please take the time to enjoy the beautiful area that we live in and spend time with those that you love.

Sincerely,

Michael Behrmann
Superintendent of Schools