



**Louisville City
School District**

407 East Main Street • Louisville, Ohio 44641 • 330.875.1666



September 2, 2021

Good afternoon Leopard Families,

As stated at the beginning of the school year, our goal is to keep our students learning in school and in-person. Unfortunately, as positive cases of COVID-19 in Stark County rise, so does the number of students and staff members required to quarantine due to proximity contact tracing.

In-person learning is essential for the development of our children. It can be conducted safely even in the face of COVID-19, mainly when we use layered prevention strategies, including recommending vaccination for those eligible, social distancing when possible, good ventilation, and good hygiene practices.

To keep the maximum number of students and staff in school, we have decided to implement another layer of protection by **requiring face coverings for students and staff inside our buildings beginning after the Labor Day break on Tuesday, September 7.**

Students and staff will have mask breaks throughout the school day, as we did last school year. Masks will continue to be required on buses but will not be necessary outside of the buildings for recess or any of our outdoor district activities.

We know that this policy change will cause concern for some of our students and families. However, we are making this change because it is the only way that we can keep our students and staff in school without having to quarantine them if they become a close contact to a positive COVID case. With this implementation, the quarantine process will drastically reduce.

I can assure you that nobody is excited about the fact that we are once again faced with these difficult decisions. But, please know that they have been made after a great deal of deliberation and with a focus on student safety and, again, our ability to keep students in school every single day to keep learning, check on their mental health and provide breakfast and lunch to those in need.

We were all hoping for a more “normal” school year, but we knew we would need to remain flexible and make changes to our policies in order to keep our students and staff in school. We will continue to monitor our local data, including the number of positive cases in our schools and our local hospitals and re-evaluate this implementation at the end of September.

I appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the effects of this virus.

Sincerely,

Michele Shaffer
Superintendent