

Ida Public Schools Roadmap for Health Guidance

Where Learning Strikes

PREPARING FOR FALL 2021

From the Superintendent

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services released their latest Back to School Guidance on August 2, 2021 and August 13, 2021. The latest release strongly recommends masks, vaccines, and testing and all persons inside wear masks regardless of vaccination status. The MDHHS documents are posted on our website under In the News. We advise you to read the recommendations carefully and to communicate with your health care provider if you are uncertain which preventative measures are important to you and your family.

Please refer to our local data to understand how Ida Public determines Health Guidance. (see following page)

The area of most concern is masking. You have options: If you are not comfortable with the chance that a mandate could be issued for face masks or you are concerned that your child will attend with others not choosing face masks, you may want to consider Ida Virtual Academy. If you would like more information, please contact your building principal. Registration begins August 25, 2021 and ends September 17, 2021 for first semester. This timeline keeps the students on schedule with the traditional school calendar. If you are not comfortable with the current face mask mandate for school buses, you have the option to transport your child. See FAQ's on website for more information on the CDC school bus requirement.

Ida Public Schools Health Guidance to date: (August 21, 2021)

- Staff, students, and parents are advised to review MDHHS recommendations carefully.
- Staff, students, and parents: Foster an attitude and environment of non-judgment for differing health protocols and values.
- All mandates for schools from higher levels of the government, including MDHHS, will be followed.
- If there is a change in Ida Public Schools community spread or transmission, guidance and protocols are subject to change.
- Athletics will follow guidance from the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- As usual, visitors to the school must check in at the office. Visitors allowed past the main office are limited to those who the teacher invited in or have an appointment.
- Each building will follow their health guidance protocols. They are posted on the building's website.
- Staff will create seating arrangements that have as much distance between students as possible.
- High traffic areas will be frequently sanitized.
- Hand sanitizer and face masks are available for all students and staff.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wash and sanitize their hands regularly.
- Parents are asked to keep their child home if they have COVID symptoms or they test positive. If they test positive, parents are asked to report this to the school nurse for contact tracing purposes. If questions arise, parents are encouraged to speak with their health care provider.
- Staff is asked to report to the school nurse if they test positive for COVID for contact tracing purposes.
- If a child or staff member tests positive, their close contacts will be notified and informed they may have been exposed to COVID and to watch for symptoms.
- While on the school bus, masks are required by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for all vaccinated and unvaccinated persons. If the requirement changes, we will send out an update. If a student forgets their mask, the bus driver will have a supply. Please work with your bus driver so their focus is road safety.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available while boarding and unloading the bus. Buses will be sanitized between each run.
- Seating charts will be used while riding the bus. Family members and/or friends who are together a lot are encouraged to sit together. This is for contact tracing purposes.

IDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCAL DATA:

Date	Ida Public Schools Cases-Zip Code 48140	Ages 0-9	Ages 10-19	Percent of all cases in county in Ida Zip Code	Cases in other county zip codes	Ages 0-9 (County number)	Ages 10-19(County Number)
8/19/21	7	0	2	2.18%	320	11	35

Data from Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)

Parent Survey: Ida Virtual Academy Parents were surveyed in December of 2020.

This survey continues to represent our parents in the fact that health values are individual and warrant our respect.

75% chose Virtual last year due to health concerns.

Of those, these were the top reasons:

30% Not everyone wearing masks

23.3% Everyone having to wear masks

3.3% Large crowds

3.3% Will return when it is safe, and the virus us more under control.

Summer School Data: We continually monitored our students and did not have a positive reported COVID-19 case from our summer school students. They social distanced as much as possible, each student had separate supplies, so sharing was minimized, and students traveled in grade-levels. This is significant data since this is the first step in students attending with choice regarding masks. **No transmission**

Summer Athletics: We have 4 positive cases reported to us from our summer practice attendees. None of the cases were contracted here. Our school nurse has begun her data collection for this year, and these will be included. **No transmission to date**

Data from 2020-2021: 104 Positive Student/Staff Cases - 5 cases were developed while in quarantine from a close contact at school from September 2020-June 2021. **No hot spots**

Ida School District Mission Statement

The Mission of Ida Public Schools is to bring students, staff, and community together to maintain our rich traditions. We will provide students with a safe learning environment, an exceptional curriculum, skills to meet the challenges of the future, and the means to become life-long learners.