

# Ida Public Schools Superintendent Brief

Where Learning Strikes

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Happy New Year Ida Public Schools Community!

I hope your holidays were relaxing and full of great moments! If you missed it, please see my Holiday Greeting email. It celebrates the hearts of our students.

As we head into the New Year, it is our continued goal to maintain in-person learning. We have all seen the improved quality of life with our students back in school. We have worked exceptionally hard to make this happen and will continue to. I cannot say enough about our staff regarding their dedication to our students and families and their willingness to fill in the gaps. Some weeks, it is day by day. I would also like to thank families for doing their part by applying the Ida Public Schools Roadmap for Health Guidance to their family's school health practices. Please continue to keep your child home if they show symptoms and continue to work with our team regarding protocols if your child tests positive. You have been incredibly cooperative, and it is making a difference.

With influenza season upon us and COVID numbers rising, the Ida Public Schools Roadmap for Health Guidance is still relevant. The opening paragraph of the Roadmap strongly advises you to carefully read the guidance from the Michigan

Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Their latest guidance, in December, is supported by our Roadmap. With MCHD and MDHHS still recommending, we strongly encourage families to follow the recommendations as they determine what meets their child's and family's health needs.

We are seeing more and more students and staff opt for masks and vaccines during this highly contagious influenza and COVID season. If MDHHS or the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) mandate masks, as they did before, we will mandate. As a public school, they are our health official. When they recommend, we strongly encourage families to consider their recommendations. If they mandate, we will mandate. This is not a pro-mask or anti-mask stance but a season of choice that enables parents to be their child's primary health educator and decision maker. These are the same practices the Michigan High School Athletic Association is currently following.

If community spread changes, as explained in the Roadmap, protocols are subject to change. We tracked hot spots in the elementary and adjusted protocols for close contacts and quarantine for that building, all data driven and falling under the recommendations of the MCHD.

These added protocols are working and limiting spread. We continue to monitor this data, as well as other data, and will adjust protocols accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact the principal if you have questions or concerns in your child's building, the school nurse for health protocols, or me for district questions or concerns.

I wish each of you all the best in 2022!

Sincerely,

Sandy

To review the Ida Public Schools Roadmap for Health Guidance and the Dashboard, please go to [Ida Public Schools homepage](#) scroll to click on the COVID 19 tab.



### 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.*