

## BACK TO SCHOOL PROTOCOL INFORMATION

With all mandates from the Health Department expired, we turn to recommendations to keep our community safe. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends layers of defense in schools to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus. As the community transmission fluctuates, these layers can increase or decrease. Below are the layers currently planned for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

- Vaccinations
  - The CDC encourages vaccinations for all eligible individuals.
  - The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination list and therefore will not be a requirement for school attendance. (see [Vaccines Required for School Entry in Michigan](#))
- Facial Coverings
  - Facial coverings will be optional for staff and students in the school building.
  - The CDC and MDHHS recommend facial coverings for non-vaccinated individuals.
  - Masks are still required by the CDC on busses.
- COVID-19 Screenings, Testing and Contact Tracing
  - Staff, students and parents are encouraged to monitor health conditions closely and stay home if you are sick or having COVID-19 symptoms.
  - We encourage students and staff to get tested for COVID-19 if having symptoms, or identified as a close contact of an individual with COVID-19.
  - Schools will perform contact tracing according to the [Kent County Health Department \(KCHD\) guidelines](#).
- Visitor Protocols
  - All visitors should self-screen for symptoms before coming to school and will be required to check in to the office.
- Maintaining Healthy Environments
  - There will be routine cleaning in order to maintain healthy facilities. This includes all student areas.
  - Staff and students will continue to have multiple opportunities for hand washing and sanitizing and instruction on covering mouths and disposing of kleenex.
  - We encourage the use of our outdoor spaces for larger groups when possible.
  - Lunch will be eaten with small cohort groups rather than all together in the lunchroom.

***Immaculate Heart of Mary School, immersed in the teachings of the Catholic Church, is dedicated to providing excellent spiritual and academic formation in the development of well-rounded individuals centered in Christ.***