

## BACK TO SCHOOL PROTOCOL UPDATES

With the new mandate issued by the health department on Friday, the previously mentioned layers of protection regarding vaccinations, screening and contact tracing, visitor protocols, and healthy environments will remain in place. Below are the changes to the Facial Coverings part of the protocols.

### ➤ Facial Coverings

- Per the order from the Kent County Health Department located [here](#), masks are required for children 4-years-old and over up to 6th grade. Masks are still strongly recommended for children under 4 but at least 2, and in 7th and 8th grade.
- Masks are still mandated by the CDC on busses.
- Any exemptions to the mask mandate must go through the office.

Exemptions include:

1. Persons in the act of eating or drinking.
2. Persons under the age of four years; however, supervised masking is recommended for children who are at least two years of age.
3. Persons with developmental conditions of any age attending school for whom it has been demonstrated that the use of a face covering would inhibit the person's access to education. These are limited to persons with an Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, Individualized Healthcare Plan or equivalent.
4. Vaccinated teachers who are working with children who are hard of hearing or students with developmental conditions who benefit from facial cues.
5. Persons who have a medical reason confirmed in writing from a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) currently licensed to practice medicine in the State of Michigan.