

SUBJECT: Message from the Superintendent (2021-22 COVID Protocols)



Dear Knights:

On June 22, 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) lifted all face-covering requirements and gathering restrictions related to COVID19. This update will provide you an overview of our plans as of today as we prepare for the launch of the 2021-22 school year.

Please note that **these plans will change if we receive public health orders from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), MDHHS, or Kent County Health Department (KCHD)**. Athletics will adhere to rules set forth by MDHHS and Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

The plans of the Kenowa Hills Public Schools for the 2021-22 school year are as follows:

- We will comply with any lawfully issued public health orders.
- Parents/Legal Guardians will make decisions for their student(s) regarding facial coverings, COVID-19 testing, and vaccinations *in the absence of any public health orders, legislative law, or MHSAA requirements*.
- Other important details surrounding daily operations will be provided as we get closer to the start of the school year.

All three public health agencies **continue to recommend additional measures to reduce the spread of the virus** including:

- A cloth face covering for unvaccinated individuals indoors, or crowded outdoor spaces
- Daily health screenings
- Maintaining a minimum of six feet between people whenever possible
- Frequent hand washing

While COVID-19 is still present in our county and community, it is at the lowest levels since the pandemic started. We still have the requirement to report positive cases to the health department and will share this information with staff and families. As such, open communication with parents/guardians regarding any household members having COVID-19 continues to be critically important. *If COVID-19 cases were to surge again for any reason, we have the knowledge and experience to take the necessary steps to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in school.*

We will continue to emphasize regular handwashing, encourage face coverings while indoors, and social distancing whenever possible. Daily home health screening will remain important, but we will not be expecting you to report these results daily. It is imperative for students and staff who are symptomatic or sick to stay home and seek medical care.

We will also continue to have school nurses available during the school day to provide basic medical care, answer questions, and administer COVID tests with parent consent. We expect these less intrusive measures will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other seasonal and common viruses.

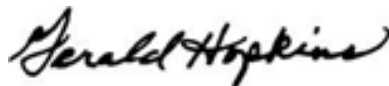
For those students, staff and parents who remain concerned about COVID-19 because of the circumstances in their lives, please know that we are not throwing caution to the wind. We will continue to follow the law and any health mandates for schools to ensure the safety of our staff, students and families remains as our top priority.

I am eternally grateful for your support, collaboration, and patience throughout this past school year. I look forward to the upcoming school year and the opportunity to see smiles and the renewed zest for discovery and learning. Thank you for sharing your most precious gifts with us.

Our first day of the upcoming school year is August 24th. The entire 2021-22 school year calendar is included for your reference. Please watch for details from your student's school in early August regarding any back-to-school events.

Enjoy the rest of your summer making memories with your family and friends. We cannot wait to see students again!

#uKNIGHTedWEstand

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald Hopkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerald Hopkins
Superintendent