

MASK POLICY 2021-2022

Updated as September 15, 2021

This requirement goes into effect with the start of school tomorrow (Wednesday, September 15), and is similar to the requirement that was in place for much of last school year. We want to provide a few reminders for families to make sure everyone is aware and complies with the need to wear face masks in school. Those reminders include:

- Students should provide their own face mask. However, if a student loses or forgets their mask, schools will have disposable face masks available.
- The mask requirement will apply to people attending indoor activities and athletics, such as volleyball games or swim meets; face masks are not required but are encouraged at events held outside, such as football games or outdoor recess.
- Families claiming a medical exemption from mask wearing will need to contact the nurse at their child's school and provide medical documentation.
- If students refuse to wear a mask it will be treated as a misbehavior and parents/guardians will be contacted. Depending upon the student's age, they will need to either be picked up by a parent/guardian or sent home.
- Parents should be aware that online learning options are limited at this time: Virtual Campus, serving secondary grades, is at capacity; there are some openings still available in Edgenuity for elementary school students.

All of us are desperate to get back to "normal" and celebrate a day when the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us once and for all. Unfortunately, as the Delta variant continues to spread and children under 12 years old are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, that day has not arrived.

Until then, Des Moines Public Schools will do everything we can to protect the health and well-being of our students, our staff ... and you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Ahart
Superintendent
Des Moines Public Schools