



Mio AuSable Schools



Fairview Area Schools

August 5, 2021

Dear Oscoda County Families,

With the school year fast approaching, we realize that there are many questions concerning what school will be like this fall concerning the ongoing COVID Pandemic. We want you to know that your community schools care very much about your children and are doing all that we can to provide a safe and effective learning environment while we navigate the various requirements and recommendations issued by the numerous agencies that influence what we do. Since the pandemic began, the situation has been changing constantly. As it continues to change, we will do our best to keep families informed. The following is based on what we know at this time.

Procedural Changes – The pandemic caused us to revise most of our daily procedures. Some of those changes we've discovered work better than what we were doing before and we plan to keep them in place. This includes increased cleaning and access to technology.

Masks – Students and staff will not be required to wear masks, but are welcome to do so if they choose. The one exception to this is on the busses. School busses fall under federal **requirements** for public transportation and therefore, passengers and drivers are required to wear masks.

Vaccines – There is no requirement that a student receive the COVID Vaccine to attend school.

Virtual School – We believe that students learn best when they are in school, face to face with one of our teachers. Our ability to offer 100% virtual instruction last year was based on a temporary change in state law allowing us to count students who are not physically present at school. That change has expired and we are no longer able to offer a virtual option. There are some extreme cases, that we could allow it, but those options were available to us before the pandemic as well.

Testing – There is currently no requirement from MDHHS or MHSAA that requires testing of students. This includes athletics. Testing is not a requirement for participation in sports.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities – We intend to offer all sports and extracurricular activities as we have done in the past. There is no COVID limit for attendance at events.

Contact Tracing – Michigan schools are required to report to the health department known cases of communicable diseases, which includes COVID-19. The degree to which we will need to assist the local health department in contact tracing is unclear at this time.

If you have specific questions regarding your student, we encourage you to contact the office of your student's school and ask. We appreciate your continued support as we all work together to provide for the children of our community.

Paul Ciske, Superintendent
Mio AuSable Schools

Bill Lake, Superintendent
Fairview Area Schools