



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

11136 Ravenna Road • Twinsburg OH 44087-1022
Phone 330.486.2000 • Fax 330.425.7216

Kathryn M. Powers
Superintendent

Martin H. Aho
Treasurer

Chad C. Welker
Business Manager

Jennifer C. Farthing
Director of Curriculum

Tajuana Hunnicutt
Director of Pupil Services

Belinda McKinney
Director of Human Resources

Andrea C. Walker
Director of Student Wellness

February 17, 2022

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family,

I am sending this correspondence with an update regarding our District's COVID-19 protocols. As you may know, last evening, the Twinsburg Board of Education discussed the feedback submitted through the COVID-19 Parent Survey and the COVID-19 Staff Survey. In case you missed the BOE meeting livestream, I attached a copy of the powerpoint for your reference. Thanks to all who submitted feedback through the Parent Survey. I also want to thank our parents who are medical doctors and medical professionals who offered their advice and guidance over the past two school years. Your support has been amazing and I will be forever grateful to you for answering my inquiries and providing your opinions.

During last evening's Board of Education Meeting, the following revisions to our District's COVID-19 protocols were authorized:

1. Effective Tuesday, February 22, 2022, our District will pivot to "Mask Optional" status;
2. Face masks are still required when riding on or driving school buses and school vans. This is a federal mandate which is expected to expire on March 18, 2022. If President Biden does not extend this mask mandate on transit vehicles, we will shift to "Mask Optional" on school buses and school vans effective March 19, 2022. If the federal mask mandate is extended beyond March 18th, our District will comply accordingly;
3. Individuals who are direct contacts to COVID-positive individuals are required to wear masks for ten (10) days following the last contact with the COVID-positive person. Summit County Public Health officials will assist in the contact tracing as needed;
4. Our District will maintain the physical distance measure of three (3) feet for all in-school activities (classrooms, lunchrooms, hallways, media centers, etc). The three (3) feet physical distance measure will not apply to evening events where parents attend with their children. In those cases, it will be the parents' responsibility to determine where their family will sit;
5. Food Services Supervisor/District Dietician Mark Bindus and his staff have been preparing to pivot back to lunchrooms for lunch periods, thus with the Board's approval last evening, the following schedule will be implemented for the return to lunchrooms for lunch periods:
 - * Monday, February 28th - Bissell, Dodge, RBC, and THS
 - * Monday, March 7th - Wilcox



6. Breakfast will still be enjoyed in classrooms;
7. Protocols for volunteers and chaperones - The survey results were clear that there is a desire for parents to return to our classrooms as volunteers and as chaperones for our field trips. The feedback was also clear about the preference for volunteers/chaperones to be required to present proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or a recent negative proctored test result. However, we were concerned about asking parents/guardians for this personal information, thus instead of requiring some type of medical documentation, volunteers and chaperones will be required to wear masks when they are volunteering in our schools and/or chaperoning our field trips. This requirement will remain in effect until further notice;
8. Some of our staff members are concerned about pivoting to "Mask Optional" status as well as being concerned about welcoming volunteers back to classrooms and inviting chaperones for field trips. Thus, each teacher will determine if volunteers will be able to assist in their classroom and whether parents/guardians will serve as chaperones on their field trips. Thanks, in advance, for understanding the preference of your child's teacher;
9. Regular Board of Education Meetings will resume at the Twinsburg Government Center. Due to limited seating, we will need to work to schedule the Student of the Month presentations so that the families from each school are scheduled at a different time than the other school celebrations scheduled for that evening. More information to follow;
10. Temperature checks upon arrival to school will cease effective Tuesday, February 22nd; and
11. We must remain cognizant that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. As a school family, we must be prepared to pivot back to more restrictive protocols if necessary, so as to protect the health and safety of our students, our staff members, and their families.

As our District pivots to "Mask Optional" status, we respectfully request that children who are showing active signs of illness, such as a runny nose, sneezing, and coughing, which are not related to pre-existing conditions, should remain home from school. Students should not return to school unless they are fever-free for at least twenty-four hours without taking any medication. This measure is extremely important as not all of our students and staff members have been vaccinated, and our youngest Tigers who are three and four years of age, are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic is still here but it is time to move the District forward and to loosen some of the restrictions that have been in place now for two school years. Some of our families will celebrate these changes and some of our families will be very worried about them. Every one of us has experienced our own "COVID-19 journey". I ask that we continue to move forward with patience and an understanding of each other's family situations along with a focus upon supporting our students.

I am extremely proud of all that we have done TOGETHER over the past two years. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Kathi Powers
Superintendent

