



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 21, 2022

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family:

During the Board of Education Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, I presented an update regarding our District's COVID data and the Board engaged in a discussion regarding potential changes to some of our COVID protocols. The purpose for this letter is to introduce you to these changes, some of which will be implemented next week. Prior to other changes being made, we will seek your feedback through a separate survey. The Board expects to have further conversation regarding our COVID protocols during our next update in March. Thus, we will prepare a Parent Survey and ask for your feedback prior to the next Board update.

1. The Mask to Stay/Test to Play protocols as well as the new periods of isolation and quarantine released in the guidance by the CDC and ODH were authorized by our Board. Attached is a copy of the publication regarding this new plan (for in-school exposure) and the new CDC/ODH protocols (for out-of-school exposure). Please note that in-school exposures will be managed using the Mask to Stay/Test to Play protocols while out-of-school exposures will be managed using the CDC/ODH guidance documents.
2. The Board also reauthorized the mask mandate for the foreseeable future and extended the mask requirement to include preschool students unless the student is unable to wear a mask due to a developmental stage, an IEP, or other mask exemption.
3. The Board engaged in a discussion regarding volunteers in the classrooms and chaperones on field trips. It was determined that parents will be surveyed to gain their perspective regarding volunteers in classrooms and chaperones for field trips. Additionally, parents will be surveyed regarding whether they believe volunteers should be required to present proof of vaccination or a negative, proctored COVID test result. Survey results will be presented to the BOE in March.
4. With regard to our Show Choirs, Band and Orchestra programs which are scheduled for trips prior to or immediately after the Board presentation in March, a second survey will be forwarded to the parents of our Show Choirs, Band and Orchestra students regarding the District's intention to permit chaperones so as to gain parent perspectives regarding chaperones for these Winter trips. In the case of these trips, chaperones will be required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative, proctored COVID test result. The Board will make a final decision



regarding proof of vaccination or a negative proctored test result for trips following the March meeting at which this topic will be discussed.

5. The Board authorized physical distance in our classrooms at Wilcox and Bissell to be no less than three (3) feet to allow for the return of reading tables in the classrooms.

6. Backpacks: At THS and RBC, students may choose to use a backpack other than a clear backpack, however, ONLY clear backpacks may be carried by students throughout the school day. All other backpacks must, immediately upon entering the school, be stored in a locker and can only be retrieved at the end of the school day. This is a decision based upon concerns for school safety. Sixth grade students assigned to RBC are required to follow the rules for backpacks at RBC. At Dodge, Bissell, and Wilcox, students may use backpacks of their choice.

7. Recess at Dodge, Bissell and Wilcox: It was determined that designated play zones should continue to be the practice for outdoor recess, however, classroom cohorts no longer need to be maintained.

8. Vaccination Information - The Board authorized the voluntary submission of COVID-19 vaccination/booster information for students. This is a necessary step for the District as we begin to implement the new periods of isolation/quarantine as designated by the CDC and ODH. These new periods are dependent upon knowing vaccination status. Please refer to the attached guidance document for further information. Parents may choose not to submit their children's vaccination status, however, in those cases, the children will be considered unvaccinated for the purpose of the CDC/ODH periods of isolation/quarantine. I will forward information regarding our process for the collection of this information next week.

9. We will survey parents to gain your perspectives regarding whether lunch periods should be resumed in our lunchrooms. With the new Mask to Stay/Test to Play plan, this is a possibility as long as students are seated at least three (3) feet from each other. The feedback gathered from this survey will be shared with the Board in March.

10. We appreciate strong home-school partnerships. During the pandemic, we learned that some teachers and some parents prefer virtual parent-teacher conferences. Thus, the format of parent/teacher conferences will be defined by what works best for the teacher and the parent. In some cases, parents and the teacher may determine that an on-campus conversation better suits your collective needs while in other cases, parents and the teacher may determine that the virtual conference is appropriate. Please work with your child's teacher(s) to determine the format that works best for you.

We know the time is here to march forward to our "new normal". We also know that we must proceed cautiously. A spike in our COVID data will be very concerning and may cause our District to return to more restrictive measures. We truly appreciate your continued support and partnership as we work together to ensure, to the best of our ability, a safe and healthy school environment for our students and staff members.

Sincerely,
Kathi Powers, Superintendent

