



Ross Local School District 2021-2022 Safe Return to School Protocols

We are excited to welcome all of our RAMS back to school this year for a safe and more “normal” learning experience for the 2021-22 school year! The Ross Local School District continues to use our local public health partners and state’s guidance to inform how we ensure a safe and successful school year.

On July 27th the Ohio Department of Health released their guidance document for Ohio K-12 schools for the 21-22 school year. That document is attached to this email.

Below are anticipated protocols for the upcoming school year. If we have learned anything through this pandemic, it is the importance of being able to adapt and adjust as needed. We will continue to monitor conditions and data in partnership with the state and our local health partners. If requirements change, we will adjust as needed. As always, we appreciate your continued support and flexibility!

Masks & Face Coverings

While at school it’s strongly ***recommended***, but not required, that unvaccinated staff and students wear a mask or face covering while indoors. As mentioned above, if requirements change, we will adjust.

Under current federal mandates from the CDC, masks are required on school transportation. The Ross Local School District will have disposable masks available on school transportation. Again, if this mandate changes, ends or is adjusted we will adjust accordingly.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

Vaccinations & COVID Protocols

We also recommend families consider vaccinations for those students who are eligible. Currently the Pfizer vaccine is available for use in children ages 12 & older. Based on the guidance document from the Ohio Department of Health, being fully vaccinated is the best way to prevent being subject to quarantine(s) based on COVID exposure this year (see page 10 of the ODH document).

That being said, we understand this decision is personal in nature and know some families will choose not to go the vaccination route. Proof of vaccination will **not** be required for students or staff to return to school or work.

Students and staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be asked to self isolate at home for 10 days from the positive test or onset of symptoms.

We are asking that all confirmed exposures and confirmed positive cases be reported to your school nurse within 24 hours.

Students who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 while at home or at school will need to quarantine. Assignments for students in quarantine will be posted in Schoology or Google Classroom.

It's important to remember that the Ross Local School District does not make quarantine decisions. We work with our local community health department to contact trace positive cases and the Butler County General Health District will issue quarantine orders.

Once again, we are asking that all families assess their child for COVID symptoms each day (fever, coughing, new loss of taste or smell, etc.) and keep sick children at home.

Other Logistical Considerations for the 2021-2022 School Year

Seating charts and in some instances assigned seating will continue to be used to assist in contact tracing.

Classrooms and common spaces such as cafeterias and gyms will continue to strive for as much social distancing as possible to reduce potential exposure and possibility of quarantine.

Families and Community Members will once again be able to attend small and large events including performances and athletic events.

Individual buildings will communicate with families their protocols and plans for small and large scale events such as conference nights, open houses and class parties.

Daily disinfection and enhanced cleaning protocols will continue along with increased hand washing and sanitizing stations available.

Regular school meals will continue to be provided free of charge to all students thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.