

# Olmsted Falls City School District

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October 29, 2021

Dear Bulldog Families,

There are two important updates in this communication to you: 1) changes to the quarantine guidelines and 2) a decision on facial coverings and how this will be monitored.

## Quarantine Guidelines

The Ohio Department of Health has made some significant changes to the quarantine guidelines that districts may use. As an Olmsted Falls parent/guardian you need to know that our school district will use these new, alternative guidelines.

Under the former guidelines, students exposed to COVID-19 were quarantined by the local board of health and then excluded from school. Under the new guidelines, a student exposed to COVID-19 is able to remain in school as long as the student wears a face covering for 14-days and has their symptoms monitored. The student may remove the mask if they do not develop symptoms and demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test between days 5-7 from the date of exposure. The district will accept negative results from a Binax COVID19 at-home test or from one administered by a healthcare provider. The parent should work with the district's school nurse.

## Facial Coverings

I am also writing to provide you with an important update related to protective facial coverings. On October 15, 2021 under OFCS School Board Policy [8450.01](#), I continued to keep the masking policy in place. In that [letter](#) to you I indicated that the mask requirement would be in effect until it is lifted, and that the decision would be re-evaluated on October 29, 2021. This communication is to inform you that **protective facial coverings will become optional beginning Monday, November 1**. We will re-evaluate the facial covering policy on a week-to-week basis and continue to track the COVID-19 metrics. As a reminder, facial coverings will still be required at all times while riding the school bus as this continues to be required by federal law.

The data and sources that were used to aid in this decision are located in the table below. The data obtained originates from a few different sources. Data are not reported in real time as there is always a lag between what actually exists and what has been reported.

The COVID-19 metrics that I have been tracking have been on the decline and they show a trend of evidence that demonstrates spread is on the decline. The number of new cases, the PCR positivity rate, hospital admissions and so on, led me to make this decision. As I've indicated in the past, I recognize that some may like this decision and others may not. I can assure you it was a difficult one, and one that will continue to be reassessed every Friday until such time that we have a very stable set of low metrics.

<i>Data Points</i>	<i>Previous Data Point (10/15/21)</i>	<i>Most Current Data Point (10/29/21)*</i>
New Cases in CuyCo (past 2 weeks)*	2,859	2,125
New Cases in 44138 (past 2 weeks)*	68	69
Case Rate in CuyCo*	231.48	172.05
Case Rate in 44138*	326.2	308.3
PCR % in CuyCo*	9.55%	7.84%

\*These numbers represent a snapshot and are the most current numbers available on the date of consideration (in this case, 10/29/21).

To conclude, the decision to return to optional protective facial coverings was influenced by two factors: (1) the change in the quarantine guidelines provided by the State Department of Health which improve our ability to keep students and staff in school, and 2) the continuing downward trend of the metrics we have been tracking.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*James L. Lloyd*

Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.  
Superintendent