

April 28, 2022

Greetings Whitefish Bay School Community,

At the Wednesday, April 27th School Board Meeting, the Board decided to update their previous Masking Guidelines for our District schools.

**Beginning Thursday, April 28th, masking guidance will be based on two criteria:**

- **Criteria One (District-Wide):** [COVID-19 Community Level](#), which can be found on the CDC's website. When Milwaukee County Community Level is **High**, masks will be **required in all District schools**. The CDC Community Level will be evaluated weekly on Fridays.
- **Criteria Two (School-Based):** [Percentage of positive cases in the school](#), which can be found on the District COVID-19 Dashboard. When positive cases in a school reach **3% or more**, masks will be **required in that specific school**. The school positivity rate will be evaluated weekly on Fridays.

**What is the Community Level?**

“COVID-19 Community Level is a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of COVID-19 cases in the area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area.” ([From CDC website](#))

**Why is there a change with a 3% positivity rate in a school?**

This school year, we have learned that 3% is a key number for both keeping students safe, and for maintaining staffing in our schools. When the positivity rate nears 3%, the student learning environment can be greatly impacted. Masking when the school positivity rate is 3% or greater will help to ensure the safety of our students and our staff, while maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning.

**Exceptions Under Specific Circumstances**

Additionally, the School Board approved a motion granting decision-making authority to the administrative team in cases of possible masking exceptions. If and when masks are required, administration would have the authority to provide school-based and circumstance-based decisions as deemed appropriate.

**Additional Information**




Moving forward, any changes in mask-wearing status will be communicated to families and staff by email. The District [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) will also be updated each Friday with the mask-wearing status. Guidance for quarantine, isolation, and household contacts remains the same.

Free community [COVID-19 Testing](#) is available through our partnership with ACL. Please take advantage of this resource should you experience any COVID-19 symptoms or should you be exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Continue to report students' positive test results to the District COVID-19 Hotline at 414-963-3863 or [covid@wfbschools.com](mailto:covid@wfbschools.com).

**Thank You**

We understand that these changes can be very difficult. The students, staff, and families of the Whitefish Bay School District have shown tremendous resilience, determination, and prioritization of safety over the past several years. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support, advocacy, and understanding as we all continue to navigate these uncertain times.

Criteria One (DISTRICT-WIDE) Milwaukee County Community Level	Low	Medium	High
Criteria Two (SCHOOL-BASED) % of Positive Cases in a School	<1.0%	≥ 1.0% and < 3.0%	≥3.0%
	Masks are <b>optional</b> for all adults and students.		If the Community Level is high, masks are <b>required</b> to be worn by all across the District.  If the school positivity rate is 3% or greater, masks are <b>required</b> to be worn by all in that specific school.
	Optional quarantine for all close contacts if asymptomatic.		
	Individuals who are symptomatic or have a positive COVID-19 test will isolate, per District protocols in the <a href="#">In-Person Learning Plan</a> . Positive COVID-19 test results include a positive PCR test, antigen test, or home test (a 3rd party test required for staff).		

Milwaukee County Community Level will be tracked each Friday, and School Positivity Rates will be tracked M, W, and F as long as this data remains available.

- **Criteria One (DISTRICT-WIDE)** - If the Milwaukee County Community Level is **High** on a Friday, then masks will be **required by all in the District** beginning the following Monday. The CDC Community Level will be evaluated weekly on Fridays.
- **Criteria Two (SCHOOLS-BASED)** - Regardless of the Milwaukee County Community Level, if a school's positivity rate is greater than or equal to 3.0% on a Friday, masks will be **required for that specific school** beginning the following Monday. The school positivity rate will be evaluated weekly on Fridays.

Either of these two criteria will result in masking as indicated above. Mask requirement exceptions are found in the District's [In-Person Learning Plan](#).