

EMERGENCY ORDER (2021-01) FOR CONTROL OF PANDEMIC
Educational Institutions - Daycares and Schools (elementary, middle, high and vocational)

The Health Officer of Oakland County Health Division makes the following factual determinations and issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code MCL 333.2453. Factual findings include:

The virus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19 spreads mainly from person-to-person, primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person or carrier coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can enter the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely to occur when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).

The Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is the dominant variant in Michigan and is significantly more contagious than the original form that entered the United States in winter 2020. Current research indicates the Delta variant may cause more serious illness in persons of all ages, including children.

Studies of COVID-19 incidence in school districts during the 2020-2021 school year demonstrate that proper masking is the most effective mitigation strategy to prevent transmission in schools when COVID-19 is circulating and where there is insufficient uptake of vaccination.

According to [America Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#), [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), and [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#), the universal use of masks in schools is an essential, and proven strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

Masks are primarily intended to reduce the emission of virus-laden droplets and aerosols, which is especially relevant for asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic infected wearers who feel well and may be unaware of how infectious they are to others, and who are estimated to account for more than 50% of transmissions. Masks also help reduce inhalation of these droplets by the wearer. The community benefit of masking for SARS-CoV-2 control is due to the combination of these effects; the individual prevention benefit increases with increasing numbers of people using masks consistently and correctly.

[Scientific Studies](#) show that consistent mask use can reduce risk in the school setting. The [MI COVID response Data and Modeling Updates](#) indicates that back-to-school saw case rate increases for all ages. Increases were highest for counties without school masking. The data also shows 50% of children hospitalized in Michigan have no underlying health conditions.

Per CDC, Oakland County, Michigan remains at a [high community transmission rate](#) for COVID and everyone in the county should continue to wear a mask in public, indoor settings.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Educational Institutions and all Persons in Educational Settings must adhere to the following rules:

- a. The Educational Institutions shall ensure that people in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, regardless of vaccination status, consistently and properly wear a facial covering while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.
- b. The Educational Institutions shall ensure that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, providing service to any persons in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve properly and consistently wear a facial covering while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following terms shall have the following definitions for purposes of this ORDER:

- “Educational Institutions” or “Educational Settings” includes daycares and schools (elementary, middle, high and vocational).
- “Fully vaccinated persons” means persons for whom at least two weeks has passed after receiving the final dose of the primary vaccine series (2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna and 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen).
- “Persons in Educational Settings” means students, teachers, administrative staff, attendees, volunteers, and other employees or volunteers of Educational Institutions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this ORDER shall not apply to the following Persons:

- a. Persons in the act of eating or drinking.
- b. Persons under the age of four years; however, supervised masking is recommended for children who are at least two years of age.
- c. Persons with developmental conditions of any age attending school for whom it has been demonstrated that the use of a face covering would inhibit the person's access to education. These are limited to persons with an Individualized Education Plan, Section 504 Plan, Individualized Healthcare Plan or equivalent.
- d. Vaccinated teachers who are working with infants younger than 12 months, children who are hard of hearing or students with developmental conditions who benefit from facial cues.
- e. Persons who have a medical reason confirmed in writing from a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) currently licensed to practice medicine in the State of Michigan.
- f. Students while participating in indoor sports and performing arts according to school policy/rules who are following the school testing plan.

IT IS FURTHER REMINDED that:

- a. On January 29, 2021, the CDC issued an ORDER that required face masks to be worn by all people while on public transportation (which included all passengers and all personnel operating conveyances) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and U.S. territories. The CDC ORDER includes school buses, both public and private.

- b. On July 27, 2021, the CDC issued recommendations calling for universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. On August 13, 2021, MDHHS issued updated guidance stating that all schools should require universal indoor masking. The Local Health Departments remind Educational Institutions of these recommendations and encourage them to enact policies to this effect.
- c. This order does not repeat, supersede, or rely on any current MDHHS or Federal Epidemic 5 Orders, which are incorporated by reference herein.

THIS ORDER is effective immediately and remains in effect until community transmission for Oakland County is categorized as "Moderate" by the CDC for at least fourteen consecutive days, or until further notice from the Oakland County Health Officer.

This order may be revised as well as supplemented with specific procedures and orders in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code.

Dated: November 22, 2021



Oakland County, Michigan
Local Health Officer



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Local Medical Officer