



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEADERSHIP ♦ SERVICE ♦ INNOVATION *Partnering for success!*

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February 22, 2022

Parents and Families,

Last week, the MDHHS and the GCHD updated their guidance for K-12 schools (both documents are linked in the COVID-19 Resources section of our website: www.geneseeisd.org) indicating that Michigan is now in a “post-surge recovery phase” of the pandemic. Accordingly, the MDHHS and the GCHD no longer recommend universal masking in the traditional K-12 setting but have left the decision of universal masking to local school districts and their unique circumstances. However, it is important to note that this updated guidance regarding masking in K-12 settings does not change our decisions around early childhood programming.

All Head Start and Early Head Start programs must follow the federal requirements, which still require universal masking for children age 2 and above, including staff (as medically tolerable). Further, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) continues to recommend universal masking in early childhood programs as children under the age of 5 are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. Therefore, GISD will continue to require universal masking (as medically tolerable) in all early childhood programs at this time.

Additionally, the CDC mandate for universal masking in public transportation is still in effect. Therefore, GISD will continue to require universal masking on all district transportation (as medically tolerable).

The updated guidance from the GCHD also addresses isolation and quarantine procedures for schools:

- **Monitoring for Symptoms:** The updated guidance from the GCHD continues to require that individuals monitor for symptoms associated with COVID-19. To maintain a safe learning environment, we will continue to follow our daily health screening process at this time.
- **Confirmed and Probable Cases for COVID-19:** Students and staff who test positive (or are presumed positive) for COVID-19 must continue to follow the current isolation guidelines.
- **Contact Tracing:** One notable change in the GCHD guidance is that schools are no longer required to do contact tracing in the K-12 school setting, but quarantining guidance as recommended by LARA must still be followed in our early childhood programs.

Richard E. Hill, President ♦ Larry P. Ford, Vice President ♦ Janis D. Bugbee, Secretary ♦ The Honorable John L. Conover, Treasurer ♦ DesRae A. Joubran, Trustee

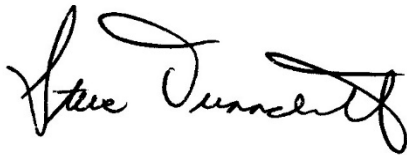


Dr. Steven W. Tunnick, Superintendent ♦ Tricia L. Hill, Deputy Superintendent ♦ Eddie L. Kindle, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Mary K. Behm, Assistant Superintendent ♦ Cynthia A. McCain, Assistant Superintendent ♦ Cherie A. Wager, Assistant Superintendent ♦ Luke R. Wittum, Assistant Superintendent
Jeffrey D. Adams, Executive Director ♦ Diana M. Allard, Executive Director ♦ Dr. Latoya F. Summey, Executive Director

I want to thank you for your continued resilience throughout this global pandemic. As I have noted each step of the way, we will follow the guidance provided by the CDC, LARA, MDHHS and GCHD, while doing our very best to protect those who are most vulnerable. I am hopeful that our continued decline in new COVID-19 cases and the accompanying updated guidance from MDHHS and GCHD is truly a sign of our move to a “post-surge recovery” both in Genesee County and across Michigan. However, we will continue to work closely with the GCHD to monitor transmission across our community and will implement any necessary changes in the future.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child’s site coordinator with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Tunnicliff".

Steven Tunnicliff, Ph.D.
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Latoya Summey, Ed.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Latoya Summey, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Center for Countywide Programs

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