

August 25, 2021

Mapleton Families,

We are excited to have welcomed students back into our classrooms. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we continue to navigate the impact of COVID inside our schools and across our community.

**Mask update:** As you may have heard, the Tri-County Health Department issued a Public Health Order requiring facial coverings to be worn by all students 2-11 years old and all staff interacting with students in that age range for all indoor school settings.

On Tuesday, Aug. 24, the Adams County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to opt-out of that public health order.

We remain focused on and dedicated to our layered approach to assure we are keeping our students and staff healthy, safe, and in the classroom for in-person learning. To that end, we will continue to follow the public health order with the following adjustments:

- Masks will continue to be required for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students and all staff who interact with these students when indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- We will continue to work with 3- and 4-year-old students to wear a mask as much as practical and feasible while indoors. Preschool staff will model mask-wearing and support the introduction of the concept of wearing a face mask with positive encouragement.
- Preschool staff will continue to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

We will continue to monitor county and district data and revisit these decisions throughout the school year.

As we've communicated in the past, Mapleton employees are required to either be fully vaccinated or wear a mask when indoors. At this time, as mentioned above, all staff interacting with students in preschool through sixth grade are required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

As we've learned over the past couple of years, the information and guidance around COVID can change quickly. We will keep you posted should anything need to be adjusted.

Thank you,

Charlotte Ciancio

Superintendent of Schools