



Hopkins Public Schools

"Committed to Quality Education for our Children's Future"

400 CLARK STREET - HOPKINS, MI 49328 - (269) 793-7261 - FAX (888) 557-7919 - www.hpsvikings.org

September 30, 2021

Dear Hopkins Public School Families,

Yesterday, the Governor signed the State Budget Bill. This bill contained a section (250) that prohibits a local health officer from issuing a mask mandate for children under 18 years old. Although the Governor has stated that this section of the bill is unenforceable, the Allegan County Health Department indicated that it will consider it the law until a judge officially rules it unconstitutional. Because this section was also tied to health department funding (Section 1222(4)), the Allegan County Health Department has been forced to rescind the masking order unless the County Board of Commissioners will approve a nonbinding resolution supporting the order. This is not likely to happen.

Therefore, at 5:00 p.m. this afternoon, the K-6 masking order will no longer be in effect.

What does this mean for Hopkins Public Schools? **HPS will be taking the position that K-6 masking is not required, but highly recommended, beginning tomorrow (October 1).**

The CDC order requiring masks on buses is still in effect as it is a federal mandate. The State Budget Bill only impacts the local health department mask order and not other COVID-19 related school matters such as quarantining and testing.

This is another reminder of how this pandemic has caused us to frequently make adjustments to our policies regarding COVID mitigation strategies. We thank you for your understanding and support as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Gary Wood, Superintendent

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Hopkins, MI 49328
(269) 793-7407

Hopkins Elementary
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Hopkins, MI 49328
(269) 793-7286

Sycamore Elementary
2163 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
(616) 681-9189