



OLD MISSION PENINSULA SCHOOL

COVID/MASKING: Q & A

What if the school increases in positive COVID cases?

- OMPS closely monitors school associated COVID case numbers. If the school becomes at risk of high numbers of students out due to illness, extra protective measures will be discussed and re-introduced as needed.

Is the decision permanent or subject to change?

- OMPS reserves the right to change protocols/requirements based on the safety needs of students and staff.

What if I want my child to continue wearing their mask at school?

- Family preference is always fully supported at OMPS. Students have the option to continue wearing a mask and the main office will continue stocking medical face masks for those students.

Does this mean that all COVID protocols are lifted?

- No.
- OMPS provides adequate hygiene supplies, such as soap, alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content, paper towels, tissues, and signage with proper hand-washing instructions. Every classroom has a sink with soap. Several sanitizing stations will be set up around the school and at entrances and exits.
- OMPS teaches and reinforces proper handwashing techniques to all students and staff.
- Classroom windows will be open as weather permits, and as much as possible.
- Every classroom will spend as much time outdoors as possible.
- Comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting of the entire school takes place daily.
- Facilities manager is trained on additional cleaning protocols.
- Our facility features a well-maintained HVAC and air filtration system.
- Hyper-HEPA portable air purifiers have been added to all classrooms (reducing our viral load by 99.9%). This is the only current technology that has proven to capture particles as small as COVID-19.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, light switches, bathrooms, must be cleaned at least every 4 hours with an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- Classrooms must be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.
- Cleaning supplies will be properly stored and away from children.

What will preschool do?

- Preschool will follow the same protocols as issued to grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

What will students do that are immunocompromised?

- Students are welcome to continue masking. OMPS encourages families with immunocompromised students to speak with their medical professional on ways to minimize risk and then collaborate with administration on how OMPS can support your child.

How will staff protect students from being “judged”?

- OMPS is a family oriented community and a judgment-free zone. Due to the small class sizes, staff members have close relationships with all students in the building and monitor interactions between students closely.
- Additionally, OMPS has a strong discipline policy against bullying of any kind within the school.

Will COVID cases continue to be communicated with contact tracing?

- Yes.

Will this change the exposure/quarantine protocols?

- OMPS continues to follow exposure and quarantine guidance from the [Grand Traverse County Health Department](#) and [MDHHS](#).

Will teachers have the same option that students have?

- Yes.

If I do want my child masked, who will enforce that?

- Family masking preferences are left up to the family to enforce. Teachers will support family choices, but teachers are not required to enforce individual masking choices for students at school.

If masks are optional, will students and staff that want to be masked be provided with masks from the school?

- OMPS will continue offering new masks to students that inquire when their mask from home becomes wet, dirty, etc.

Will masks still be required on the BATA bus?

- Yes. The BATA bus system continues to require masking until March 18, 2022.

How should staff members determine whether a student’s symptoms are due to COVID or another illness?

- OMPS staff are not medical professionals and do not have the responsibility of determining whether student illness is due to COVID. All students exhibiting signs and symptoms of illness are asked to stay home. If a student arrives at school with signs or symptoms of illness will be sent to the wellness room and sent home.

What will OMPS do to support the mental health of students in the building as a transition happens?

- Continue creating strong relationships with students and monitor for changes in behavior.
- Provide our staff with timely, responsive and ongoing professional development, tools, resources and implementation support to encourage social-emotional learning, trauma-informed best practices, student risk identification, and self-care.
- Ensure our crisis management plan includes community resources we can easily leverage in the event of a trauma.
- Compile an updated list of wellness resources available to OMPS staff and families.

What does this mean for visitors?

- Masking will be optional. OMPS will have masks available for students/staff/visitors.
- For management purposes, OMPS will continue to allow 1 volunteer per classroom at a time.