

August 27, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may know, the Plainville School Committee recently approved a first reading of a Face Covering Policy effective at the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year. In addition the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education authorized the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to issue an order which he did on August 25, 2021 that requires masking for public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades effective at the beginning of the new school year through at least October 1, 2021. A link to both documents appears below. Please note that Plainville's policy requires the wearing of masks by all students including preschool students and only exempts those with medical, behavioral or other challenges.

[Face Covering Policy approved by school committee on August 24, 2021](#)
[Implementation of DESE Mask Requirement August 25, 2021](#)

In addition to sharing this policy information I am pleased to share additional health and safety information intended to enhance our efforts to provide consistent in-person instruction throughout the school year. As we did last year, the administrative team prepared a set of protocol documents based upon guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control, the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the MA Department of Health. The use of protocols was quite effective last year in supporting student and staff wellness and we fully expect that to be the case again this year. Please see the link below which contains all updated protocol documents.

[Protocols](#)

Additional information, including voluntary participation in two (2) state supported Covid-19 testing programs and quarantine response protocols and contact tracing is also available through the links provided below.

[Covid 19 Testing Program 2021 2022](#)
[Quarantine Response Protocols and Contact Tracing](#)

On Monday August 30, 2021, under separate cover I will inform you as to how you can enroll yourself (staff member) or your child/children in the state's Covid-19 testing program (Symptomatic Testing and "Test and Stay").

Throughout the summer we used these protocols and were able to run successful programs (Extended School Year, Jumpstart to Kindergarten, Accelerated Literacy Academy). It is with that in mind that I look forward to the new school year continuing to offer a safe, healthy environment for our students and staff.

Take care!

Superintendent David Raiche