



School District of the City of Iron Mountain

Jerome J. Sardina
Superintendent
sardinaj@imschools.org

217 Izzo Mariucci Way
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(O) 906-779-2600

August 12, 2021

Good Afternoon Mountaineer Families,

It is hard to believe but we are about to say “welcome back!” As we prepare for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, I would like to provide you with the most up-to-date information. After monitoring our local data, meeting with the Dickinson-Iron Health Department, and discussing our current reality with the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District Superintendents, Iron Mountain Public Schools has decided to recommend certain suggestions while giving parents, students, staff, and visitors a choice. The intent of this letter is to provide to you brief, but yet concise, information as of today with the hopes that you will be able to make an informed decision for your student considering what is in their best interest. So what does this mean for you and your child?

Regarding Vaccinations: IMPS will be leaving the decision to vaccinate up to families as you decide for yourselves and your students what is the best course of action to take. Although a Covid-19 vaccination is being recommended by health organizations for those 12 years of age and older, IMPS will not be requiring a vaccination for students as a condition of enrollment.

Regarding face coverings (masks): IMPS will not be making masks mandatory for educators, staff, students, and guests at Iron Mountain Public Schools for either indoor or outdoor activities. Please understand the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends universal indoor masking for all educators, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status, however, there are not any current Federal or State mandates on this issue. IMPS will leave this choice up to the individual and/or family. If a mandate were to be imposed IMPS would notify our school community as quickly as possible. We understand that some may choose to follow the recommendation and some may choose not to. As a reminder, those who choose to take the extra precautions in this regard will certainly be allowed and respected for doing so.

Regarding Bussing and Transportation: All bussing and transportation routes will run as normal. IMPS will follow the same protocol for masking on busses that we are following for indoor and outdoor activities.

Regarding quarantines and contact tracing: IMPS is still under State and Federal mandates pertaining to contract tracing and reporting. Once again, in conjunction with the help of our local health department, IMPS will be offering support when called upon to do so. We will be updating our district website regularly www.imschools.org with information about positive cases and quarantines should they apply. Local health officials will take into consideration vaccination and masking when determining who is a close contact.

Regarding Testing of Students and Visitors: IMPS will not be testing students, staff, or visitors. We will not be requiring health questionnaires for visitor or staff and ask that if you are experiencing symptoms that you stay home and/or keep your child at home until you are certain there is not the presence of Covid. Currently, the M.H.S.A.A. and State of Michigan have not mandated any screening or testing.

The ISD Superintendents are working together to ensure a successful school year. While I do not speak for other districts, I do believe you will see most, if not all, schools in our ISD and surrounding areas doing the same or something quite similar in their return to school plans. We are coming back to school with in-person, face-to-face instruction being our primary focus. We are planning on school and all school activities to return to as much of a “normal” as possible with a look and feel of a traditional school year.


IMPS will continue to do our best in offering a safe environment for all students. We will continue with our increased cleaning protocols in classrooms, restrooms, and common areas. We will continue to provide masks and hand sanitizer for those who request them. We are still mindful of social distancing, and will encourage proper hygiene at all levels. Clear and transparent communication with our community and parents is our primary goal as we continue to navigate the challenges we face.

One last reminder that IMPS is stressing very strongly is the need for students to be in school and in the classrooms. The interruptions to learning for students has played a significant role in the education of our children. The very best way to overcome these interruptions is to partner students with teachers and not only spend time together in the instructional environment but to get back to building relationships

and connecting with one another. Please plan on having your student attend in person for their classes. If, however you have a medical need and require virtual learning or other unique or extenuating circumstance please contact the building principal to determine the best course of action for your student.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. IMPS remains committed to providing our parents and students with the best possible options and will work with each individual and family to ensure a successful school year. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, and we will do our best to assist you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Sardina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jerry Sardina
Superintendent