



Deer Park Community City Schools

Deer Park Schools - "Inspiring & Empowering Lifelong Success"

Jay Phillips, Superintendent

Jeff Lewis, Treasurer

August 15, 2022

Dear Deer Park Families:

We are excited to start the 2022-2023 school year and wanted to provide the latest COVID-19 safety updates and protocols for this school year. Just as we have managed to attend school safely these past two and half years, our goal as a school district is to continue to attend school as normal as possible while still also respecting the many differences of opinions and approaches that each family has made since March 2020.

Ohio school districts received a major update this past spring (March 11, 2022) from the Hamilton Co. Public Health Department where the guidelines "shifted mitigation tactics toward allowing people to take personal responsibility for themselves and their families." We also received a major update just last week that the CDC is doing away with the "Test to Play, Mask to Stay" initiative. What this tells me is that we are continuing to learn to live with COVID-19 and schools are getting back to as close to normal as possible.

As a review from the end of last school year, school districts in Ohio are no longer required to report positive COVID-19 cases to their local health department or perform contact tracing in our schools. The Hamilton County Public Health Dept. recommends that people stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations and recommends wearing a mask indoors when local levels of transmission are high. Both vaccines and masking are recommended, not required, and are the responsibility of each individual family. Any student or staff member who chooses to wear a mask may do so, but Deer Park Schools will not require that masks be worn PK-12.

As we have continued to live and learn, COVID-19 is unpredictable and our willingness to remain flexible and responsive will help us live our mission and stay galvanized as a community.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We have so much to be proud of as a school community in navigating the challenges that have come our way. If you have specific questions, please reach out to your building principal or school nurse.

Sincerely,

Jay Phillips
Superintendent
Deer Park Community City Schools