



## MONTPELIER EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

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7/30/21

To: Montpelier School Community  
From: Dr. Jamison J. Grime  
Re: Safe Restart of 2021-22 School Year

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. Montpelier Schools continues to monitor the COVID pandemic, and in recent months, the information surrounding the Delta variant.

The Ohio Department of Health has recently released guidelines and recommendations for a safe return to school this year.

The ODH stated the following strong RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Faculty, staff, and eligible students (12 and over) be vaccinated;
2. Those who are not vaccinated should wear masks while indoors;
3. Additional measures be taken that include providing appropriate ventilation in classrooms, maximizing spacing between individuals, sanitizing surfaces, practicing hand sanitation procedures, etc.

Based on these recommendations, and while monitoring our local circumstances and data, Montpelier Schools has developed guidelines for a safe return to school. **Please keep in mind that these plans will remain flexible as we monitor COVID-19 data and as we monitor guidance/mandates to help ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff.**

Montpelier Schools operations for the 2021-22 school year will include the following guidelines:

Mask Wearing - Not Required, but Optional:

All health orders for the state of Ohio, with the exception of some non-school settings, were rescinded on June 2, 2021. This included the requirement for face masks, or facial coverings, in child education settings.

Students and staff riding school busses are required to wear masks. The current health order mandating this expires on September 13, 2021. It is not known if this health order will be rescinded at this time.

More recently the Ohio Department of Health has made strong recommendations for non-vaccinated students and staff to wear masks.

***As Montpelier Schools opens the school year, mask wearing is optional, but not required.***

Montpelier Schools will continue to monitor guidance from the CDC, along with local and state agencies, to stay informed and make appropriate decisions on this topic. Flexibility will be key as information is monitored.

Vaccinations - Optional:

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for students/staff, but remain an optional resource for eligible ages. We encourage Montpelier School families to perform appropriate research on the vaccines which will allow you to make the decision you see fit for your child/families.

Physical Distancing:

Montpelier Schools will return to pre-pandemic protocols. Physical distancing will be recommended and adhered to when possible, but not required.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

Handwashing will be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout the building and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands frequently. Cough and sneeze etiquette will be encouraged.

Facilities:

District cleaning protocols will continue to follow strong disinfecting routines. Ventilation systems will be monitored to utilize appropriate fresh air intake, circulation, and filtering processes that promote safety. Plexiglass barriers will remain in the cafeteria. Drinking fountains will remain shut down. Students should bring an appropriate, clear water bottle that can be refilled at the water bottle filling stations located throughout the building.

Contact Tracing:

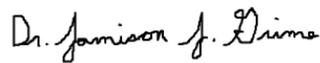
Any COVID-19 positive individual should stay home and/or will be sent home from the district. The School Nurse is trained and will monitor any potential spread of an infectious disease or virus. Montpelier Schools will continue to follow Williams County Health Department guidance concerning quarantine of individuals exposed to COVID-19.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing:

As always, district stakeholders are asked to complete a self-health assessment prior to arriving on campus. If an individual feels sick, or has flu-like symptoms, they are asked to remain home. The School Nurse will also provide guidance on recommendations for testing and/or visits to individual's health care providers.

**\*\*\*The above protocols will continue to be monitored in conjunction with the local health department and/or local/state health orders.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Jamison J. Grime".

Dr. Jamison J. Grime  
Superintendent