

# Olmsted Falls City School District

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November 12, 2021

Dear Bulldog Families,

I want to preface this communication by saying that I believe that those in health care and government should be making the ultimate decisions about masking and public health, not superintendents. Unfortunately, that is not our reality at this point in time nor will it likely change.

I am writing to provide you with an important update related to three topics:

- 1) The variables that we will use as it relates to implementing the district's masking policy moving forward;
- 2) Changes to parent communication regarding positive cases and;
- 3) The masking decision for the week of 11/15/21.

**NOTE:** Regardless of what is required in the schools, ***it is still a Federal requirement that all drivers and riders wear a mask on district transportation vehicles.***

## **Changes to Variables Used for the Implementation of Masking Policy**

Previously the decision to implement the school board's masking policy decisions was made using data from the number of cases within our county, new cases within the 44138 zip code, the case rate in the county and within 44138, along with the PCR percentage. We also considered other metrics such as our school cases along with data provided by our state and county health care systems.

We now have two weeks of data under an optional masking policy and will utilize our own school and district data to assist with decision making. The introduction of an approved vaccine for our youngest learners, a booster vaccination for our older students and staff members, along with changes to the quarantine guidelines are the reasons why, moving forward, we are going to put more emphasis on the COVID19 data we gather from our schools. We specifically will be looking at the number of COVID-19 cases that occur with our students and staff relative to each school building (regardless of whether that confirmed case occurred inside or outside of school).

**Positive COVID-19 Cases by Building for OFCS Students & Staff**

<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Previous STUDENT Data for Week of 11/1/21</b>	<b>Current STUDENT Data for Week of 11/8/21</b>	<b>Previous STAFF Data for Week of 11/1/21</b>	<b>Current STAFF Data for Week of 11/8/21</b>
Cases at the ECC	0	0	0	0
Cases at Falls-Lenox	3	4	0	1
Cases at OFIS	0	5	0	0
Cases at OFMS	1	2	1	0
Cases at OFHS	2	13	0	1
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**Changes in Communication Regarding Positive Cases / Close Contacts**

As protocols evolve, it is important to ensure we are able to track and communicate information in the most efficient way possible. The district continues to update information on the [OFCS COVID-19 Weekly Dashboard](#) each Monday regarding the number of positive COVID cases and the number of exclusions among both our students and staff members. To streamline communication, **buildings are no longer sending out notifications of positive cases for specific classrooms, school buses or extracurricular activities. Instead, all buildings are now using a close contact communication targeted specifically to the families of students who have been identified as a close contact** of a fellow student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID. **If you receive a close contact email, please do not ignore it.** This important close contact email communication will contain information regarding the date your child was last in contact with the positive individual and the time frame that your student must wear a mask per the new guidelines.

**Masking for the Week of 11/15/21**

For next week (11/15 - 11/19) **masks will remain optional.** Our data trends indicate: 1) Reported positive COVID-19 cases remain low for our youngest learners, 2) our staff cases remain very low and 3) the reported student cases at OFHS has increased from the previous week. Families who have students at OFHS should strongly consider having students wear a mask. We will continue to monitor data to help with decision making.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*James L. Lloyd*

Jim Lloyd, Ed.D.  
Superintendent