



# MINOOKA

## COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

District #111 [mchs.net](http://mchs.net)

*Mission: Strengthen **M**astery, **C**ollaboration, **H**igh Expectations, and **S**uccess for All Students.*

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**August 4, 2021**

MCHS families, staff, and students:

We are so excited to welcome back our faculty, staff, and students to the 2021-2022 School Year!

In the next few days our school will once again see the faces and hear the voices of our freshmen students in the hallways and classrooms at South Campus during [Freshmen Experience Day](#). Freshmen Experience Day is an opportunity for our incoming freshmen to see the school one more time before their first day of high school, walk their schedule, and attend an athletic/activities fair.

New teachers will attend an orientation day session that will provide a great jump-start to the new year and hit the ground running. Finally, we will all come together as a district during our Teacher Institute Days, August 9th and 10th, for professional learning, mentoring opportunities, and to gather with their respective departments to prepare and plan for the upcoming school year.

All of our planning will culminate into a wonderful first day of student learning as we, Minooka Community High School, say Welcome to MCHS on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

Please see below as we have a few important topics and reminders to share with you as we move toward the first day of school.

### **Governor Pritzker Announcement**

Earlier today Governor Pritzker announced a mask mandate, for public school districts in the state, that requires all students and staff members to wear masks while indoors. Additional information from ISBE/IDPH will be forthcoming outlining the mandate rules to which we as a school district must adhere by as we safely bring students and staff back to in-person learning on August 11th. Starting tomorrow, August 5, 2021, all people entering MCHS buildings will be required to properly wear a mask.

### **In-Person Learning**

In accordance with a [declaration](#) released by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), all District #111 students will receive in-person instruction.

### **Remote Learning**

[ISBE guidance](#) states that only students who are excluded for one of the following reasons are eligible for remote learning.

- Not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Remote learning methods are at the discretion of the teacher(s) and may include video conferencing, online platforms, and/or sending assignments home.

### **Exclusion & Contact Tracing**

Per [CDC/IDPH guidelines](#), students who test COVID-positive, are symptomatic for COVID-19, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested COVID-positive will be excluded from school in accordance with the school district's exclusion chart.

Asymptomatic vaccinated individuals who have been in close contact with a COVID-positive individual will not be excluded. Proof of vaccination status is not

required, but absent such proof, the individual would be excluded in accordance with the school district's exclusion chart.

### **Vaccination Status**

Individuals will not be required to disclose their vaccination status to school district officials. Parents, students and staff may wish to voluntarily disclose their vaccination status to avoid a mandatory exclusion for close contact with a COVID-positive person. Voluntary proof of vaccination must include presentation of a COVID vaccination card.

### **Masks**

[CDC/IDPH guidance](#) for schools requires all students/staff wear masks while indoors. The school district requires that students and staff follow this [CDC/IDPH guidance](#). Masking protocols and other COVID mitigation measures could change based on local COVID data and recommendations/mandates from local public health officials, the ISBE, the Governor's Office or the State Legislature.

There is no masking recommendation for students/staff while outdoors.

If needed, each student will be provided with a school district issued mask.

### **COVID Mitigation Measures**

The school district will continue to implement IDPH recommended COVID mitigation measures. In accordance with [IDPH guidelines](#), such mitigation measures will be adjusted based on local COVID data and recommendations from local public health officials.

- Proper wearing of face masks is required indoors
- Students will be required to self-certify daily for COVID symptoms prior to school and stay home if they display any COVID symptoms
- Mandatory exclusions for COVID-positive students
- Mandatory exclusions for unvaccinated individuals in close contact with a COVID-positive person
- Mandatory exclusions for unvaccinated individuals with any COVID symptom(s)
- Encouraging and practicing proper hand and respiratory hygiene
- Ensuring proper ventilation in all schools
- Practicing proper cleaning and disinfection of learning spaces

- Voluntary community-based or in-house COVID testing program for symptomatic students/staff
- [CDC guidance](#) recommends that age eligible students (currently age 12 and older) receive a COVID-19 vaccine

### **School District Transportation**

The [IDPH mandates](#) that all students/staff are properly masked while on any school district transportation. This masking requirement includes school busses, white activity busses, drivers education vehicles, and any other school district transportation.

### **School Areas**

Social distancing of at least 3 feet will be encouraged. The following areas of the school and/or instruction will make their best efforts to socially distance at least 3 feet:

- Lunch Program
- Band/Chorus
- Locker Rooms

### **Lunch Program**

School lunch service will be provided to all students. Social distancing of at least 3 feet will be encouraged during lunch service. Maintaining proper social distancing may require the use of multiple lunch spaces.

- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria, unless local COVID data requires mitigation changes.
- Students will be encouraged to maintain at least 3 feet of social distancing and will be allowed to face each other during lunch service.

### **Locker Rooms**

Locker rooms can be used for Physical Education classes and athletics as long as at least 3 feet of social distancing is maintained, when possible.

### **Band/Chorus Classes**

Music programs will resume regular programming. This will include participation in available competitions, concerts, and other related programs. Students should maintain a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing at all times, when possible.

### **Visitors**

During school hours, all school visitors will be required to answer self certification questions and wear a mask when inside the school facilities.

### **Field Trips & School Assemblies**

Field trips that align with instructional outcomes and/or are an extension of the learning environment will be permitted upon approval of the building principal. Masks must be worn on school district transportation. Three feet of social distancing should be maintained whenever possible.

Due to COVID vaccine availability for all students age 12 and older, all school assemblies will be allowed. Three feet of social distancing should be maintained at all times indoors.

### **Targeted Mitigations for Classrooms, Programs and/or Buildings**

COVID clusters may require the administration to impose temporary mitigations for individual classrooms, programs or school buildings. Such mitigations could include, but are not limited to, masking requirements, increased social distancing, or remote learning. Decisions regarding temporary mitigations will be made in consultation with local public health officials.

### **Disclaimer**

The contents of this Return to School Guidance are subject to change based on local COVID data and/or Federal, State, and/or local guidance and/or mandates. Any changes to this plan will be communicated with parents via email and posted on the school district website.

Sincerely,

### ***Brent Edwards***

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