



August 20, 2021

All School Communication

Important: Changes to Mask Policy

Dear JB Families,

This week, Governor DeWine urged K-12 schools to require masks for students, faculty, and staff. In a press conference on Tuesday, he said "I'm speaking directly to every parent, school official, and school board member in Ohio...if a child can't be vaccinated, the best way to ensure a good school year is for that child to wear a mask while in class. With the Delta Variant producing so many cases today, it will be very difficult to keep it out of the classroom and it will be impossible once it's in the classroom to keep it from spreading unless the students wear masks or are vaccinated."

DeWine said the children in Ohio simply cannot afford another disruptive school year. **At Julie Billiart Schools, we agree that our kids, in particular, NEED to be in person.** The absolute last thing our teachers, administrators, parents, and students want is another mandatory shut down or extended break.

For this reason, Julie Billiart Schools will require masks for all individuals, including students, beginning August 25, 2021 and lasting for the first month of school. Our COVID-19 Response Team will reevaluate our mask policy and issue any changes or updates within a month of school starting.

In order to keep our kids safe, in any indoor JB facility when kids are present, *everyone is required to wear a mask*. Regardless of vaccination status, all visitors must be masked if visiting during school hours. You can access the updated policies, [here](#).

This was not an easy decision, and we realize that we have parents who stand on both sides of this issue with great conviction. Julie Billiart Schools follow guidance provided to us from local and national health agencies. We are also taking into strong consideration, as always, the unique needs of our kids. We know how important it is for them to be in person, socializing. We continue to pray for the day that masks are no longer necessary. However, at this point, masks continue to play a critical role in allowing our schools to stay safe, open and serve our kids.

We promise to do our part to make mask-wearing as comfortable, accepted, and free of distraction as possible. Unless your child's doctor provides documentation of an exemption, we will provide a mask for all children who don't come to school with one. If you have an exemption on file from last year, you do not need to resubmit.



As we know, the situation surrounding COVID-19 can change at any time, and we will continue to monitor, listen, and adapt our policies according to guidance from local and national health agencies. If you have any questions or concerns about this communication, please feel free to reach out. We look forward to seeing our kids in just a few short days!

Gratefully yours in mission,

Lannie Davis-Frecker, Jodi Johnston, Jason Wojnicz, and Samantha Evers

[Our COVID-19 Information Hub \(Announcements, Resources, and Plans\)](#)

[Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings](#)