

# Alanson Public Schools

7400 North Street, Alanson, MI 49706

Telephone: (231) 548-2261

K-12 Office Fax: (231) 548-2165

August 20, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students of Alanson Public Schools,

**Our highest priority is the safety of our students and staff.** COVID-19 transmission has continued to increase in our community and has resulted in Emmet County reaching the **HIGH TRANSMISSION** designation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based on active cases per population. This increase in cases has led to multiple conversations with local health officials, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW).

Given the recommendations of the CDC, MDHHS, and HDNW, we have developed the attached protocols to address the health and safety of our students and staff for the 2021-2022 school year.

These mitigation strategies attached are layered and adjustable, based on Emmet County data reported by the CDC. As transmission goes up, additional mitigation measures are added. As transmission declines, mitigation measures are safely removed. It is important to note that the status of the COVID-19 virus can change rapidly and this is a fluid situation. Transmission levels will be continuously monitored to ensure we are matching the appropriate protective measures for the level of COVID transmission in our community.

During the 2020-2021 school year, APS was exemplary in our ability to contain and prevent the spread of this virus. We know how to keep our school community safe. We know that when we work together, we have the power to provide our students with an excellent education in a safe and healthy school.

We will continue to monitor transmission data on a weekly basis and inform each of you through ParentSquare and the District's website regarding any changes. This plan goes into effect on the **first day of school on September 7, 2021.**

Respectfully,

*Rachelle Cook*

Rachelle Cook, Superintendent/K-12 Principal

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## Alanson Public Schools Protocols & Mitigation Efforts for 2021-2022

*This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants and availability of vaccination for younger age groups. Any changes in the plan due to updates in the CDC status will be communicated via Parent Square and posted on the District's website. Adjustments in protocols will be determined by the school administration. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, adjustments in mitigation measures will take place on Mondays.*

### MASKING

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Staff, students (K-12) and visitors will not be required to wear face masks. Face masks are optional.	Staff, students (K-12) and visitors are highly recommended to wear face masks. Face masks are optional.	Staff, students (K-12) and visitors will be required to wear face masks indoors, during school hours, regardless of vaccination status, except with medical/religious exemption.	Staff, students (K-12) and visitors will be required to wear face masks indoors, during school hours, regardless of vaccination status, except with medical/religious exemption.

### TRANSPORTATION

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols. <b>We will adhere to the CDC order for facemask requirements.</b>	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols. <b>We will adhere to the CDC order for facemask requirements.</b>	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols. <b>We will adhere to the CDC order for facemask requirements.</b>	Normal Transportation Operations. Additional health and safety protocols. <b>We will adhere to the CDC order for facemask requirements.</b>

**CDC COVID Data Tracker:** <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

### **Other COVID mitigation efforts in which the District plans to utilize:**

**Cohorts-** Continue to have organized cohorts to the greatest extent possible. Our classes are single sections so they easily lend themselves to the cohort protocol. Extra planning will be provided at lunch when cohorts are in the same physical space (cohorts will sit together at assigned tables and not mix with other grade levels, extra space will be arranged between tables, assigned seating will occur during lunches).

**Cleaning-** Continue the same cleaning efforts as last year such as more frequent cleaning of hard surfaces and common areas during the school day and after school.

**Frequent Handwashing-** Students and staff will engage in frequent handwashing

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**Monitoring of APS Air Ionization Generator Output-** Continual monitoring of air ionization levels in locations throughout the District to ensure that air ionization generators installed on all air handlers are working properly

**Testing-** There is no required COVID testing at this time by the District, MHSAA, or MDHHS

**Social Distancing-** Continue to keep students distanced when possible.

**School Visitors-** See above and visitors will be limited to pre-arranged volunteers and guests

**Daily Health Screening-** Students, staff, and parents are asked to assess their health each day prior to coming to school and **stay home if they are sick.**

**Quarantine-** Continue with following CDC guidelines:

- A close contact is defined as students who were within 3 feet of an infected student for more than 15 minutes if both infected student and exposed student were correctly wearing masks **or** students who were within 6 feet of an infected student for more than 15 minutes if both the infected student and the exposed student were **not** wearing masks.
- Students who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID unless they have symptoms.
- Students who are not vaccinated will need to be quarantined for 10 days after contact with someone who had COVID unless they had a confirmed positive case of COVID within 3 months (and show no symptoms).