



Public Schools of Petoskey

Every Opportunity.

August 26, 2022

Dear Petoskey Families,

We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! It is hard to believe we are quickly approaching the start of the 2022-2023 school year. We have had a busy summer getting ready for school to start, and are excited for the first full day of school on Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

One of the many items we have had to prepare for is the unfortunate reality of the continued COVID-19 pandemic. Petoskey Schools will continue to work closely with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. Current back-to-school protocols for COVID-19 are evolving from pandemic emergency to a more standard tactic of controlling respiratory viral diseases, such as [influenza](#). While the onset of a more threatening variant could alter this approach, we are in a position to focus on illness prevention.

Petoskey Schools will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Schools will be appropriately sanitized, hand sanitizer stations will be provided, and an isolation area for individuals not feeling well will be maintained. We encourage masking during periods of respiratory illnesses or outbreaks.

As a school district, we recommend that everyone monitor their symptoms and stay home if they feel ill. Health Department isolation guidelines can be found [here](#). If your child is experiencing any of the below symptoms, we ask that you keep your child home from school ([click here](#) for more information):

- Severe illness
- Fever of 101 or higher
- Experiencing any of the following: diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, rash, or skin sores

Additionally, It is important that we all work together to provide a supportive environment for those that wish to wear a mask. Please talk to your child(ren) about this before the start of the school year. Our staff will also address this when the school year begins.

The Public Schools of Petoskey is participating in the [State of Michigan's Backpack Program](#). This program provides rapid tests to families for at home use. Your building principal will let you know when the tests are available for pick up in the school office.

We will continue to provide a COVID testing center, for the time being, at the Spitler Administration Building, 1130 Howard Street, Monday through Friday, from 7:45AM to 8:30AM. Look for signs that will lead you to the testing area.

Respectfully,

Jon Wilcox
Interim Superintendent