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Morgan County Health Department
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Berkeley-Morgan County Board of Health

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Attn: Parents of students and school personnel of all public and private schools in Berkeley and Morgan County.

The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place." CDC Website, August 5, 2021

The CDC also recommends that local authorities base their mitigation strategies on current levels of transmission of COVID-19 in their communities.

- "Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered the CDC's recommendations for LEVELS OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION, which is defined as a running 7 day total of cases per 100,000 people in the community. ("LOW" would be 0-9, "MODERATE" would be 10-49, "SUBSTANTIAL" would be 50-99 and "HIGH" would be 100 or above.) (paraphrased from the CDC's "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools" date July 9th, 2021.)

Accordingly, the Morgan/Berkeley County Health Department will REQUIRE UNIVERSAL MASK USE in SCHOOLS for all individuals whenever the cumulative total of new cases for the previous 7 days (this would include all new confirmed and probable cases for the past 7 days). We will publish the number on Friday for the following weeks guidance. Once the cases hit a SUBSTANTIAL level or above, the masking will be required.

The COVID 19 pandemic is constantly evolving as is the evidence/knowledge being obtained from it. The decision to require masks during an outbreak is made to ensure the health and safety of all students and to ensure their ability to attend school in person.

Please look at the CDC's website for the full transcripts and updates for the K-12 Guidance, another reference would be the "COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools" from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Thank you,

Kevin T. McLaughlin, DO
Berkeley/Morgan Health Officer