

March 1, 2022

Dear Mansfield Staff and Families,

A few quick updates regarding current activity to help us move to routine prevention and control of COVID-19:

- The Centers for Disease Control exemption for mask wearing on school buses issued Friday afternoon was a surprise and it created some confusion yesterday on a few of our buses. The Mansfield Board of Education requirement that masks be worn extends to our school buses. Our bus transportation carrier, M&J Bus, has confirmed that they are in support of this mandate and have stated that we have their “full cooperation.” The mask requirement for Mansfield Public Schools is in place until March 14.
- Additional test kits for staff and students are due to arrive in Mansfield tomorrow. We have been directed to provide two kits to every student and staff member. The kits are to be used for at home testing on the first day when masks are no longer required in school (currently March 14). Additional test kits should be used whenever a staff member or student is experiencing COVID-like symptoms and before interacting with others outside the home. These kits will be distributed by the end of the week and will be sent home with students.
- We are working to ensure all practices are in place to support the transition to a model of prevention and response to outbreaks. This includes ensuring we can quickly reinstitute mitigation strategies that have been removed or reduced in recent months. The Board of Education has asked that we be prepared by March 14. Among the practices that will continue are community isolation and quarantine procedures for individuals who have contracted COVID-19 or been exposed to COVID-19. These procedures include return to school after day 5 for those who contracted COVID-19 with the understanding that a mask should be worn until day 10. For those who were exposed to the virus and identified as a close contact **outside of school**, CDC quarantine requirements will be followed which may require unvaccinated individuals to stay out of school for a period of time. We will continue to notify families of possible exposure within the school

setting and will allow students and staff to continue to attend school provided they are not showing signs of the virus.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly M. Lyman".

Kelly M. Lyman