

Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) Rescinds PreK-6th Grade Mask Order--Effective
Wednesday Jan 26th at 12:01 am

Much has changed since the issuance of the COVID mask order on Sept 22, 2021. The arrival of Omicron and COVID vaccinations adjusted the metrics one should use to gauge our public health mitigation efforts away from cases and incidence rates to MDHHS stated goals of:

- Preventing Death and Severe Outcomes
- Protecting Health Care Capacity
- Keeping Vital Infrastructure Functioning

Changes supporting rescinding the mask order:

- Pfizer pediatric vaccines for ages 5-11 were approved for emergency use Oct 29, 2021
- Enough time has passed since the approval of the 5-11-year-old Pfizer COVID vaccine to allow those who desire to be vaccinated to complete the series
- Recently, over the last several weeks, there has been no waiting list for vaccinations for this age group, with appointments available within a week on average
- The relationship between cases and hospitalizations and death is markedly different from before, especially for the vaccinated.

MCHD, along with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC, strongly recommends:

- That masks continue to be worn in PreK-12 settings as well as all public and crowded spaces. Applying preventive measures that include physical distancing, mask wearing, hand hygiene, and other mitigation strategies does reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19.
- Personal responsibility: Testing, quarantine, and isolation
- COVID Vaccinations

MCHD, along with your community leaders whose duty it is to protect Marquette County, will consider additional recommendations and possible orders if the health care capacity or vital infrastructure is threatening collapse.