



Jackson Local Schools

Striving for Excellence



September 2, 2021

Dear parents, guardians, and caregivers,

The Jackson Local School District is committed to the safety and health of our students and staff. That continues to be a guiding principle. We are writing to inform you of a change in our face mask policy. You should know there are several factors that have led us to the point where we are now requiring all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a face mask in all indoor settings in the Jackson Local School District effective September 7 through September 30. We will re-evaluate our face mask policy at that point. Students and staff with a documented medical reason for not wearing a face mask will NOT be required to wear a face mask in school. Documented medical reasons signed by a physician for a mask waiver must be dropped off at Central Office.

We continue to evaluate the data points specific to Stark County and Jackson Township around COVID-19. ZIP code spread in those feeding the Jackson Local School District has increased in the last two weeks. In the last month 1,443 positive cases from JLSD ZIP codes have been identified and 58% of those cases have occurred in the last two weeks. As a comparison, 1,443 cases is about the same number of cases our ZIP codes had last November before a surge in cases forced the district to close between Thanksgiving and Winter breaks.

We are well aware of the opinions on both sides of wearing a face mask and regardless of those opinions, the Ohio Department of Health quarantine flow chart allows for asymptomatic students wearing a mask to continue in-person instruction AND extracurricular school activities. In order for us to maintain in-person instruction, wearing a face mask is the best option to stay within the guidelines of the ODH quarantine flow chart.

Our greatest threats to in-person instruction and extracurricular activities are positive COVID-19 cases and associated quarantined students. For example, in just the first two weeks of this school year 180 students have been quarantined. Of those, 62 have returned and none were diagnosed with COVID-19. Those 62 students represent 620 days of missed in-class instruction. Last school year, more than 2,200 students were quarantined resulting in more than 22,000 days



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of missed in-person instruction. Of those, a very small number of students became COVID-19 positive.

We all want the same thing: to put our students in the best opportunity to have academic success and experience as many extracurricular activities as possible. This decision does that.

Thank you and Go Bears!

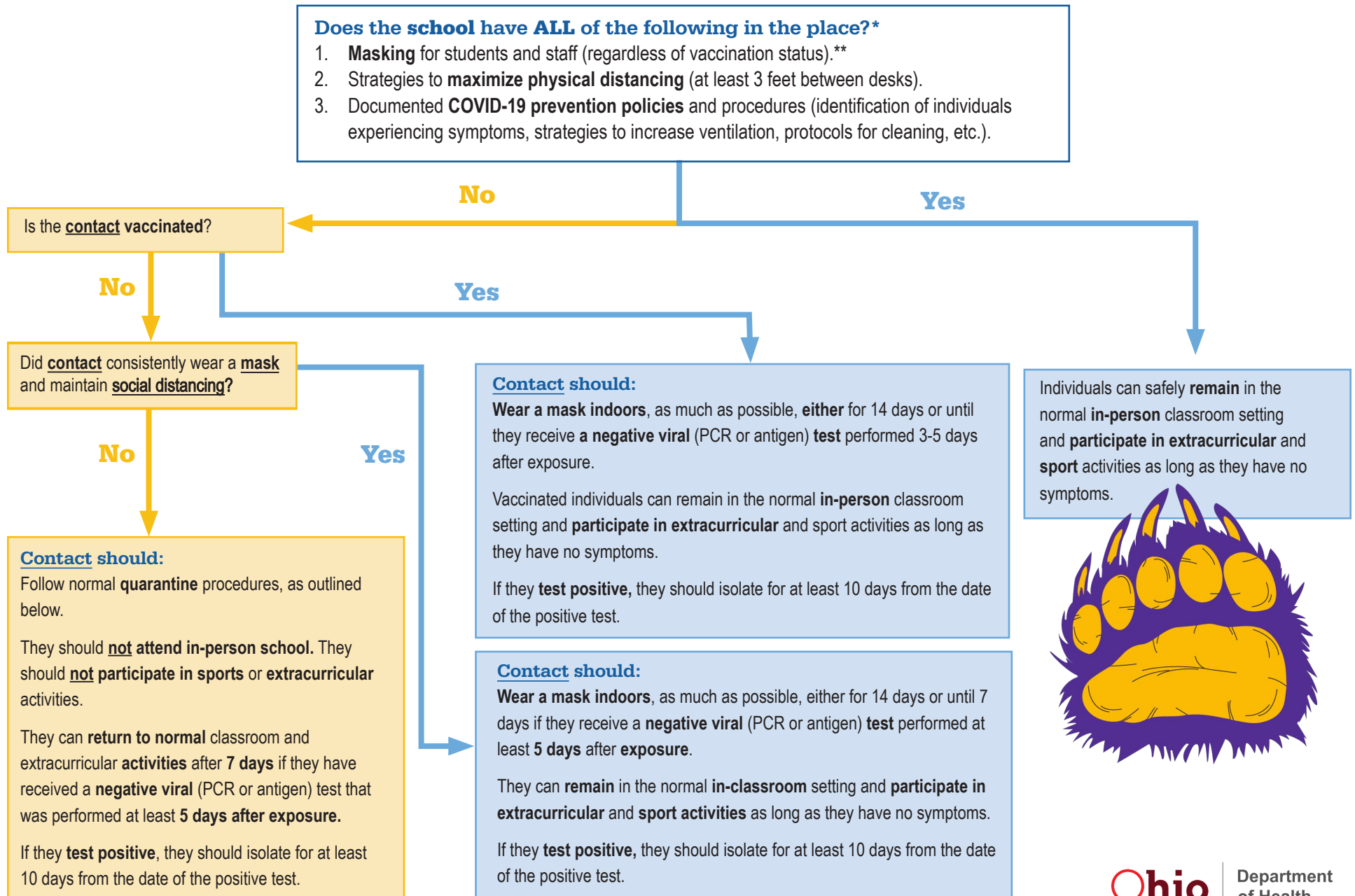
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris M. Loreto".

**Superintendent
Jackson Local School District**

Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings

This chart can help guide quarantine decisions after a student or adult contact is exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the classroom setting.



*This flowchart applies only to COVID-19 exposures that occurred within a K-12 classroom setting. It is not applicable to exposure in the community, extracurricular, or sports environment.

**The person who tested positive for COVID-19 should follow standard isolation procedures.