



Returning to School in Shiawassee County – 2021 COVID-19 Edition

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School leaders in Shiawassee County have worked collaboratively with the Shiawassee County Health Department (SCHD) to create a simple plan for returning to school this year that recognizes the impact COVID-19 has had on our community. As the school year gets underway, the number of COVID-19 cases in our communities and guidance provided by the Shiawassee County Health Department will continue to inform our practices.

There may be changes to this plan as different agencies establish new enforceable mandates or as laws change through the legislative process. When we confront such changes, we will try to communicate clearly and quickly and minimize disruption to our students, their families, and our staff while also achieving consistency across all schools in Shiawassee County.

Having schools open for in-person learning is extremely important to the more than 10,000 students in Shiawassee County. A complete move to remote learning is only expected this year when mandated.

The Shiawassee County Health Department says the key strategy for keeping in-person learning available in Shiawassee County is through achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination within our community. As education leaders, we recommend all eligible students, teachers, staff, and household members get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible when supported by their medical advisor.

Key Return to School Components:

Component	Primary Plan
Mask Use	The CDC, MDHHS SCHD recommend universal masking. Per CDC order, face masks will be required on all transportation.
Physical Distancing	Will be practiced whenever possible and practical.
COVID-19 Screening / Testing	Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms.
Staying home when sick/getting tested	Students or staff with symptoms of infectious illness such as COVID-19 should stay home.
Ventilation	Ventilation systems in buildings will continue to operate to original design specifications. On school buses, windows may be opened slightly when safe and practicable.
Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation & Quarantine	The SCHD is responsible for the decision of who will quarantine or isolate.
Cleaning & Disinfection	Standard daily cleaning protocols using products approved by the CDC to be effective against the COVID-19 virus.