

# ORCHARD VIEW SCHOOLS

35 S. SHERIDAN DRIVE  
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49442  
[www.orchardview.org](http://www.orchardview.org)

Dear Staff, Students, and Community,

January 4, 2022

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and well as we head into the half-way point to our school year. As we look ahead to the second half of our school year, I want to thank all our staff, students and community members for supporting our COVID protocols to make our schools and buses safe.

To help keep our schools safe and keep up with [Muskegon Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\) guidance](#), please take a moment to review the following reminders about COVID-19 expectations relative to masking and quarantine:

1. Parents and guardians are asked to contact the school to report any positive (+) COVID test result.
2. The Federal Mask Mandate for Transportation was extended through March 18th. This Federal Mandate requires those riding a bus to wear a mask.
3. Orchard View Schools **strongly recommends wearing a mask**; generally speaking, if you wear a mask correctly (covering your nose and mouth) in school, you are not required to quarantine.
4. Please work with your child so they have a clear understanding of your family expectations for masks at school. We will not ask, nor expect staff to be responsible for family decisions about masking.
5. Starting second semester our role will be to identify individuals who may be close contacts, inform parents and guardians of close contact status, and recommend families follow the MDHHS guidance.
6. The official guidance for families will continue to be provided by an MHDDS contact tracer, who covers cases reported in Orchard View Schools.

As an educator, I never expected we would find ourselves navigating a global pandemic for over two years. So far, it looks like the COVID trend this winter closely mimics the same time last year. However, the new Omicron variant could be a game-changer, so we'll continue to monitor over the next few weeks and communicate as needed.

Thanks for your continued support!

Jim Nielsen,  
Superintendent