

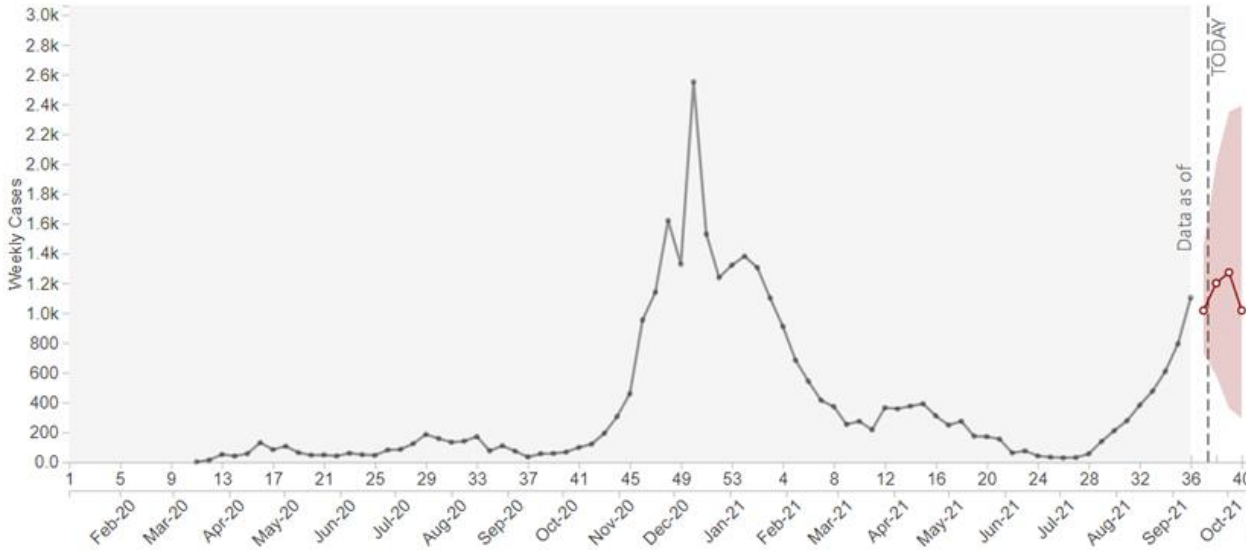
Dear Avon Lake Community,

On August 27, 2021, the district adopted a mask requirement for students in grades K-6 due to COVID-19 issues. As part of that adoption, we indicated that the decision would be reviewed by the end of this week. **This communication is to inform you that the K-6 mask requirement will remain in effect during the hours of school operation, and that it will be re-evaluated again on or before Friday, October 22, 2021 to determine what our course of action will be for the school week that begins on Monday, October 25, 2021.**

Throughout the pandemic, we have collaborated with numerous organizations including the Ohio Department of Health, Lorain County Health Department, Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and local governmental agencies. Based on current data from the LCPH and ODH websites, COVID-19 has surged in Lorain County in the last several weeks. Specific Avon Lake City Schools data can be found on our website which is updated daily.

	Week Ending August 29	Week Ending September 19
New Cases in Lorain County <i>Source: LCPH website</i>	774	1,345
New Cases in 44012 zip code <i>Source: LCPH website</i>	40	55
Case Rate in Lorain County per 100,000 (>100 High Transmission) <i>Source: ODH website</i>	260.0	616.1
New Cases in Avon Lake Schools <i>Source: Avon Lake City Schools website</i>	3	13

Observed and forecasted weekly COVID-19 cases in Lorain County, Ohio



Source: Ohio Department of Health website

I know that this decision will be popular with some and unpopular with others, however our goal continues to be to keep students and staff in school, in-person, therefore continuing the mask requirement is necessary at this time. We are at our best when we have in-person instruction and it is important that we keep these measures in place to allow us to accomplish the goal of staying in school when we're in the middle of a COVID-19 surge.

Sincerely,
Bob Scott, Superintendent