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PRESS RELEASE

TO: Marquette County Media

FROM: Marquette County Health Department

CONTACT: Gerald Messana, Health Officer, 906-475-9977

DATE: September 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Marquette County Health Department Issues Mask Order for Pre-K through Sixth Grade

The Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) is issuing a mask order for educational settings in Marquette County. This order requires that children in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade consistently and properly wear a facial mask covering both nose and mouth while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution. In addition, regardless of vaccination status, all persons providing service in an educational institution or setting to any child in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade must properly and consistently wear a facial mask while inside any enclosed building, vehicle, or structure.

Marquette County is currently at a “high” COVID-19 transmission level according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The test positivity rate is 12.49% and the weekly case rate is 333 per 100,000 population (data from September 12 – September 18, 2021). As of September 20, 2021, a cumulative total of 5,755 probable/confirmed cases and 68 probable/confirmed deaths attributed to COVID-19 have occurred in Marquette County. As of September 20, 2021, 30% of cases within the last 7 days have been in those under 18 years of age. Layered mitigation strategies including mask use are essential to protecting those under 12 who are ineligible for vaccination against the highly contagious Delta Variant.

The mask order will be effective Thursday, September 23, 2021 and will remain in effect until community transmission for Marquette County is categorized as “moderate” or “low” according to the CDC’s metrics for at least 14 consecutive days, or until further notice from the Marquette County Health Officer.

A complete copy of the order can be found at mqthealth.org.

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