



STANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

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Dear Parents/Guardians -

The Stanton Community School district has made the decision to move to full-time use of masks during the school day. Students and staff will have mask breaks built into the day. This decision was based on updated guidance we received from the Iowa Department of Public Health last week. The guidance outlines when an individual would need to quarantine and is based on whether masks were worn consistently and correctly. The new mask guidance could decrease the potential number of students who may need to quarantine from a Covid exposure. In the scenarios listed below, an individual is considered a *close contact* when they have been within six feet of a Covid-19 positive case for 15 minutes or longer.

- When everyone is masked properly and individuals have worn masks consistently and correctly, if an individual tests positive the close contacts who were wearing masks should self-monitor but do not have to quarantine.
- When an unmasked individual tests positive and close contacts were or were not wearing masks, all close contacts must quarantine.
- When a masked individual tests positive, those close contacts who were not wearing masks must quarantine.

Masks that are considered effective by the IDPH and CDC are masks which:

- Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
- Completely cover your nose and mouth
- Fit snugly against the sides of your face (no gaps).

We are requiring masks for students and staff to be those that meet the above listed guidelines. Masks that have *exhalation valves or vents, neck gaiters, and face shields* are not currently considered effective face coverings. Therefore, these coverings cannot be worn as a face mask at school.

Finally, we ask your help in encouraging students to bring their masks home to be laundered and their water bottles home to be cleaned frequently. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we navigate through changes in our district plan, and work to provide a safe environment for our students and staff.

Stanton Community Schools Administration
