

10/13/2020

AGWSR Families,

During the week of September 28, the Iowa Department of Public Health issued updated guidance regarding the procedures for quarantining. Please click [here](#) to review the updated guidance. Due to this change in procedure, AGWSR will be implementing a mask requirement for students and adults at AGWSR beginning **Wednesday, October 14**. Our goal in implementing this requirement is simple, to keep our students in school as much as possible. Through Tuesday, October 13 (Day 30 of school), AGWSR had three instances where a student (K-12) or adult tested positive and, due to contract tracing, 64 students or adults were required to quarantine for 14 days. That is an average of over 20 people quarantine for each positive test and those students have missed one-third of the school year already. If all students and adults had been wearing masks, none of them would have been required to quarantine.

The following are further details concerning the mask requirement:

- Masks will be required at all events taking place inside any school building. This includes athletics, fine arts, and other gatherings. **Please note: This will begin with the volleyball matches on Tuesday, October 13.**
- Requiring masks is consistent with the large majority of NICL conference schools as well as districts in Central Rivers AEA (53 public & 19 nonpublic districts).
- According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, face shields and gaiters DO NOT count as face coverings in this guidance. Please click [here](#) for more information regarding face coverings.
- Masks will not be required to be worn while at recess or while eating lunch. Students and adults will be asked to put a mask back on after eating if they are unable to maintain a 6 foot distance.
- Each building will be implementing mask break areas and situations. These will be communicated directly to the students by either the building principal or staff members.

Once again, thank you to all families for your continued understanding and support as we work through this together. Our goal is to keep as many students as possible in school each day, and following this new guidance will help us achieve that goal.

Erik Smith  
AGWSR Superintendent

