



September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Greetings Cadet Family,

The purpose of this communication is to update you on the recommended procedural change from the Iowa Department of Public Health that was communicated at Governor Kim Reynolds's Press Conference this morning.

The Department of Public Health is (and has been) the organization that determines whether or not an individual has to quarantine when in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID19. The guidance for close contact has not changed and is defined as anyone within six feet for fifteen minutes.

The new guidance states that if the individual who tests positive and those who were in close contact are all properly (covers nose and mouth) and consistently wearing **face masks**, there will potentially not be a need for the close contacts to quarantine. Those in close contact will need to self-monitor for symptoms, but can still attend school. I spoke with officials at Greenbelt Home Health Care (Hardin County Public Health) to confirm. They confirmed if both individuals are properly wearing masks there is a high probability that a close contact will not have to quarantine (not 100%, but a high probability). The individual testing positive will still need to enter the isolation protocol. We will continue to provide direct communication to close contacts to let them know if Public Health determines they need to quarantine or just monitor symptoms.

This change in procedure only impacts face masks, not all face coverings. We wanted to make everyone aware that anyone wearing a face shield or gaiter will not meet this new standard for not having to quarantine. If the individual who tests positive is wearing a shield or gaiter instead of a mask, every close contact will most likely have to quarantine for fourteen days (Public Health will determine this, not the school). If a close contact is wearing a face shield or gaiter instead of a mask, they will most likely have to quarantine for fourteen days.

We are still practicing all of our mitigation strategies of social distancing, frequent hand washing and sanitizing surfaces as often as possible. We just wanted to share the change to the quarantine decision-making process from Public Health.

Thank you, as always, for your patience as we work together to make this a great year for all students, staff and community members.

Sincerely,

Tony Neumann



Mr. Tony Neumann  
Superintendent

Iowa Falls and Alden CSD

*"Empowering every student to learn, lead, and succeed!"*