



# Newburg United School District No. 54

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Jason Kersten-Superintendent  
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October 16, 2020

I am writing this letter as a follow up to yesterday with the change in protocols beginning on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. I would like to stress these changes are being made in the best interest of our staff, students and community. These changes are also being put in place to allow the district to continue face to face education. The district has updated our Smart Restart Plan and separated the Orange and Red categories to be listed individually. The other change in protocols starting on Monday are as follows:

1. Masks will be required to be worn by students and bus drivers on both routes and to and from games and practices.
2. Masks will be required to be worn by students, teachers and staff staff members in hallways and classrooms during the day.
3. Masks will be optional for elementary students during recess both inside and outside.
4. Masks will not need to be worn in PE while students are doing physical activity. Masks will be required when they are not doing physical activity.
5. Masks will not need to be worn while students are singing or playing instruments but must be worn when not singing or playing an instrument.
6. At lunch, students will be required to wear masks while they are in line getting lunch. Once they are at the table to eat, masks may be taken off.
7. The protocols for the elementary students seating at lunch will not change very much from how it is now. We will ensure each grade is at a separate table and distance students and staff as well as we can.
8. Students in grades 7-12 will be given assigned seats at lunch by grade. Students and staff will be distanced as well as we can.
9. Mask breaks for all grades will be given during the day. This break will be five to ten minutes so students don't have them on all day.
10. Attendance to extracurricular activities may change. Parents will be updated when any changes are made.
11. Masks should be washed daily or no less than three days a week. The school does have washable masks.

I realize the changes may seem a little extreme to individuals. I understand and respect your viewpoints. I also believe these changes will enable our district to continue to educate our students face to face. With the recent changes to contact tracing, students or staff wearing masks will not have to quarantine if someone in our building also wearing a mask tests positive for COVID-19. This is a big change from when school started and makes it possible to continue face to



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face education. I have included a document showing the types of masks meeting the requirement. This will also be posted to our website.

I would like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience as we work through this pandemic. I believe everyone would agree face to face education is better than distance learning or a hybrid schedule. These changes while our county in the orange level (high risk) will help ensure our students, staff and community are safe and the education of our students can be held in our building.

Sincerely

Jason A. Kersten  
Superintendent