



Newburg United School District No. 54



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Jason Kersten-Superintendent
Bob Beaudrie-Elem/HS Principal

Darcy Lamoureux-Business Manager
Scott Hunskor-Board President

January 28, 2021

Dear Parents,

I am writing this letter in response to Governor Burgum's announcement to move our state from the Yellow Risk level to the Green Risk level. This change initiated the process of reevaluating our Health and Safety Plan.

As I look at our plan, the goal is to provide education to our students face to face and not have to distant learn. We want to keep our students in school so our students have opportunities to have field trips, music, sports and clubs. We want to ensure, especially at the elementary level, students are in school and parent will not miss work because a student has been quarantined.

In the Yellow Risk level, our district is allowing students the option to not wear a mask when social distancing can be done in the classrooms, recess, physical education and when eating. Students are required to wear masks in the hallways, lunch lines, buses and when social distancing cannot be met. Although the state will be at the Green Risk level, our district will continue to follow the guidelines approved for the Yellow Risk level (as stated above). This is a change from our original plan adopted in August, in which masks are recommended at the Green Risk level. The main reason for the change has to do with the contact tracing guidelines. Last fall, an individual would be considered a close contact to someone who tested positive even if both individuals were wearing a mask and would have to quarantine for 10 days. Current guidelines state when both individuals are wearing masks and one person tests positive, the other masked individual is not considered a close contact and does not have to quarantine. With everyone masked when social distancing can't be achieved, staff, students or possibly entire elementary classrooms would not have to be sent home because of contact tracing. I believe continuing to follow the guidelines we currently have will enable us to keep our learning face to face in our building. This decision will be reevaluated at the end of the third nine weeks. A letter will go out with any changes.

With the change of Risk level colors, there is a change to the attendance for events at the school. Occupancy is now at 75% instead of 50%. Masks will be recommended for the spectators at activities.

We understand and appreciate that masks are not convenient, but we also feel the negative consequences of having students missing school, activities and other opportunities, or worse, closing our school to transition to distance learning have far worse consequences for our students, families and communities

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via email or call me at the school. My number is 272-6151

Sincerely,

Jason A. Kersten, Superintendent