



South Heart Public School

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October 8, 2020

To: South Heart School Parents, Students, and School Staff:

Re: Mask Requirement – Effective Monday, October 12, 2020

Effective Monday, October 12, 2020, South Heart School is requiring that Students and School Staff properly wear an appropriate face mask during the academic day and when riding school-provided transportation

- “Properly wear” means that both the mouth and nose are covered.
- “Appropriate mask” means school appropriate as determined by the Administration and does NOT include a face shield per NDDoH recommendations
- If desired, South Heart School will provide a free cloth mask to Students and School Staff that displays a Cougar logo, but parents are asked to maintain and clean masks each night.

This very difficult decision by the South Heart School Board was made with the primary goal of keeping our students safe and will provide the best opportunity for students and staff to remain in school and participate in school activities.

The following factors were considered:

- The increasing number of positive Covid-19 cases involving Students and Staff and the subsequent large number of Students and Staff quarantined has substantially impacted our students’ overall education
- On Thursday, October 1, the North Dakota Dept of Health and Governor Burgum issued new guidance regarding quarantines titled “Guidance for Quarantine and Mask Use”
<https://www.governor.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Close%20Contact%20quarantine%20guidance.pdf>

This new guidance states that close contacts will NOT need to quarantine if BOTH the infected individual and the close contact were wearing a mask at the time of close contact. This exception does NOT apply to household close contacts and does NOT include individuals isolated due to testing positive.

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- A. Specifically, South Heart Students and School Staff:
 - a. ARE required to wear masks when riding route buses
 - b. ARE required to wear masks when riding activity busses or other school-provided transportation
 - c. ARE required to wear masks during the academic day (8:00 – 3:30, Monday - Friday) in hallways, classrooms, offices, etc

- B. Students will NOT be required to wear masks
 - a. While eating breakfast and lunch
 - b. While taking scheduled bathroom/mask breaks during the academic day
 - c. While participating in PE class
 - d. While working in the shop during Vo-Ag class
 - e. While OUTSIDE for recess
 - f. While attending classes held OUTSIDE provided substantial social distancing is being met
 - g. While receiving speech and language services (plastic shield must be worn and will be provided)
 - h. While giving a speech or other classroom presentation provided that substantial social distancing is being met.

- C. School Staff will NOT be required to wear masks
 - a. While eating breakfast and lunch
 - b. While taking scheduled bathroom/mask breaks with students during the academic day
 - c. While working with students in the shop during Vo-Ag class provided substantial social distancing is being met
 - d. While supervising students OUTSIDE for recess provided substantial social distancing is being met
 - e. While hosting classes held OUTSIDE with students provided that substantial social distancing is being met
 - f. While working in classrooms, offices, etc whenever students are NOT present
 - g. While lecturing and instructing students provided that substantial social distancing is being met. Once a lesson has been taught, School Staff must wear a mask.
 - h. While providing speech and language services (plastic shield must be worn and will be provided) Other than speech and language services, School Staff working closely with students one-to-one or in small groups where social distancing is not possible must wear a mask

Note:

All Students and Staff currently quarantined and asymptomatic are welcome to return to school on Monday, October 12. Students and Staff that are considering “household” close contacts and those that have tested positive must complete the required quarantine and/or isolation time before returning per NDDoH recommendations.

Zoom Parent Meetings – Thursday, October 8 2020

Mr. Dean will be hosting Zoom Parent meetings to provide additional information and answer questions. Links will be posted on the main page of the South Heart School website.

- a. Zoom #1 Parents Last Name (A-K) 6:00 pm Thursday, October 8
- b. Zoom #1 Parents Last Name (L-Z) 7:00 pm Thursday, October 8