



October 1, 2020

Dear Families,

Following a news conference by Governor Reynolds on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, we received new guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Education. Under the new guidance, students and staff will not have to go into quarantine if masks are being worn by both individuals during exposure or potential exposure situations. Previous guidance had stated that quarantine was required regardless of masks if an individual was exposed to a person who was positive within six feet for more than fifteen minutes. Moving forward, anyone who has had close contact with a positive case will no longer need to quarantine for 14 days if both people were wearing masks when the exposure occurred. There are a number of exceptions to the rule, including:

- A face shield is not considered a mask. A neck gaiter is also not considered a mask. Quarantine will be required if one of the individuals was wearing a face shield or a neck gaiter at the time of exposure.
- Individuals exposed in a household or healthcare setting will still need to quarantine for 14 days.
- People who are sick or have tested positive for COVID-19 must still isolate from others until:
  - They have had no fever for at least 24 hours and their other symptoms have improved, AND
  - At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared or, if they are asymptomatic, since they had a positive COVID-19 test.

Anyone who is currently in quarantine may discontinue that quarantine immediately if both individuals were wearing a mask during the exposure unless the quarantine is due to a family member testing positive.

Our number one goal is to keep as many of our students in school for as long we can to deliver in-person instruction. To do that we will continue to work to provide social distancing in our classrooms. When that is not possible, we will be having students wear masks. These steps along with the new guidance from Iowa Department of Public Health will reduce the number of students and staff members who need to quarantine in our school districts.

We ask all students, staff, and families to continue taking the steps necessary to keep everyone safe and healthy by wearing masks and physical distancing. Please keep students home if they are feeling sick. By working together, we can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community.

Sincerely,

Jon R. Wiebers  
Superintendent

# COVID-19 Response: When to Quarantine

## For Business, Education, and Child Care Settings

For non-healthcare, non-residential settings, quarantine is no longer recommended if a potential exposure occurs while both the infectious individual and the close contacts are wearing face coverings consistently and correctly.

- In all scenarios below, an individual is considered a **close contact** when they have been within **6 feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes**.
- Individuals who are a **close contact due to exposure to a household member are required to quarantine for at least 14 days**. Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others.
- **Individuals who have COVID-19 must isolate for at least 10 days**. Isolation keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others, even in their home.

### Everyone Masked

When a masked individual tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE



SELF-MONITOR



### Close Contacts Masked

When an unmasked individual tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE



QUARANTINE



### Some Close Contacts Masked

When a masked individual tests positive and SOME close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE



QUARANTINE



### No One Masked

When an unmasked individual tests positive and close contacts were NOT wearing masks...

ISOLATE



QUARANTINE

