

# Sacred Heart School



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October 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Each month the Sacred Heart Board of Education reviews the approved 2020-2021 Return to Learn plan taking into consideration the current status of COVID-19 cases within the school and community. We have been fortunate to experience a minimal amount of cases each week and hope to continue this trend with proper health practices at home and at school.

Recently, the Iowa Department of Public Health released new guidance regarding students and adults being quarantined related to schools. The new guidance states that if a positive person is wearing a mask in class, and other students are wearing a mask in class, then the only one to miss class time is the person that is positive for COVID-19. Public Health has concluded that masks are the only effective option, and that gaiters and face shields are not a safe or proper face covering. In other words, any student wearing a mask properly that is exposed to a COVID positive student who is wearing a gaiter or face shield would still need to quarantine for 14 days, which is what we are trying to avoid.

With that being said, at the October 13 meeting, the Sacred Heart Board of Education reviewed and revised the July 23, 2020 Return to Learn communication. All “face coverings” have been revised as “masks”. Specifically, the Health and Safety section now reads as:

## *Masks*

- *At this time, we are strongly encouraging students, staff, and parents to wear masks, especially in situations where proper social distancing is difficult. Additional masks are located in the school office. If one is needed for your child, please contact the school office. (Face coverings are required for weekly Mass)*
- *Lessons and instructions will be provided to students on the appropriate use of masks, as well as the prevention of stigmas associated with use or non-use of masks.*

The following information, which was listed in the Updated August 14, 2020 Q&A document will also be revised:

## ***Board Approved face covering guidelines:***

*Masks are highly recommended, but not required in all situations.*

*\*\*Medical exceptions will be allowed with appropriate documentation.*

### *Masks are required in the following situations:*

*Mass  
Utilizing Monticello Community School District transportation  
Small group work in the classroom  
Passing in the hallways  
Entering and exiting the building*

### *Masks are not be required in the following situations:*

*When social distancing is possible  
Seatwork time in the classroom  
PE  
Recess  
Lunch*

*Please keep in mind that we are working on plans to limit these situations so that social distancing can take place as frequently as possible.*

Additionally, quarantine would still be required anytime masks are NOT being worn and individuals meet the definition of close contact (within 6 ft for 15 minutes or more). **Please continue to monitor your child and family for symptoms each day and keep your children home if they are not feeling well.**

Next week we will begin to phase out gaiters and face shields, and beginning October 26, face shields and gaiters will not be allowed to be worn at school.

The attached infographic explains this new guidance for non-healthcare and non-residential settings.

We appreciate the efforts that have come from home and school to minimize our positive cases of COVID at Sacred Heart School.

God bless,  
Sacred Heart Board of Education