**5-14-2021 Family Update - Required Face Covering Update**

Families:

As you may be aware, last night Governor Walz announced an end to the statewide mask requirement.  The language is expected to state that unvaccinated individuals should still wear a face covering indoors.

However, we have received direction and clarification from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) stating the following:

The CDC has not yet provided clear guidance for school settings, but has stated that they expect to update guidance for children in school and summer camps soon. Additionally, our youngest Minnesotans remain ineligible for vaccines and eligibility for 12- to 15-year-olds was just announced this week. As a result, Minnesota’s Safe Learning Plan, along with the existing face covering guidance for schools and child care settings, remain in effect. ***Through the end of the 2020-21 school year (last teacher contact day), masks must continue to be worn by everyone inside school buildings or on a school bus.***

Based on the MDE directive, we will continue to require the wearing of masks when inside our school buildings and on buses for the remainder of the school year unless we receive different MDE guidance in the coming days or weeks.  Our quarantine and isolation guidelines continue to be in place.

If you have a family member who is currently having any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or testing for COVID-19, please make sure all other family members remain quarantined and contact the school nurse, Donna Olson, @ 507-416-2105 or lolson@nrheg.k12.mn.us.

Thank you for all you are doing to take care of yourself and those around you, and to help ensure that all our students and staff remain in school for the next three weeks.

Sincerely,

Dale Carlson

Superintendent