

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168



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Michael Meihak, Superintendent

Secondary School

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Nicholas Jurrens, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed

To: NRHEG families
From: Mr. Meihak
NRHEG Superintendent
Date: October 11, 2021
Re: COVID update

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on our COVID protocols, procedures, and potential next steps.

We are in the midst of seeing increased cases at our secondary school. Our numbers were hovering around a total of 10-12 positive cases and now we are seeing a total of 15-17 students out of the building each day with a confirmed positive test. Fortunately, our elementary building is seeing a consistent number hovering around four (4) total students each day with a confirmed positive test. We are not necessarily seeing larger numbers in one area or grade level over another. Please know that if these numbers do continue to increase, there will become a time that a mask requirement will be put in place. Our hope is that we see positive cases decline and in turn avoid the mask requirement. The length of a mask requirement may be short-term, depending on the number of positive cases.

We are also experiencing an increase in staff members needing to isolate due to a positive test result or to quarantine due to close contact factors. This is alarming as the success of in-person learning greatly depends on staff members being available to teach in their classrooms. If staff absences continue to increase, this will be a time that a change will be needed. One potential step to take would be to move to distance learning for a small period of time. The elementary classes could be separated enough to require only a section or a grade level be required to move into distance learning. At the secondary level, we would move into a distance learning model for pods of students. Typically the 6th grade could separate from the 7th and 8th grades. The students in 9th- 12th grade may be lumped together and move to distance learning as a whole.

Please understand that there are no major changes taking place at this time. We ask that everyone continues to take the steps necessary to keep our schools open and students learning in person. Reconsider wearing masks without a requirement in place, social distance of three feet and up to six feet whenever possible, practice proper handwashing and stay home when not feeling well.

The health and safety of our students and staff members continue to be our priority. If mask requirements or distance learning changes are needed, we will communicate plans as needed. Flexibility will be important, please keep these possibilities in mind to have some sort of plans in place if the need arises.