

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

On October 14, 2020, the Perry School Board voted that students and staff will wear masks when social distancing cannot be maintained. Social distancing is defined as being 6 feet apart for 15 continuous minutes. This will be in effect beginning **Monday, October 26, 2020** in all school buildings and for all school activities.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has made a change to quarantine recommendations for people that have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19. This applies in non-healthcare, non-residential settings only. This includes businesses, education and childcare settings.

This guidance recommends that when a face covering is worn **consistently** and **correctly** by both a positive case and a close contact, the close contact will no longer need to quarantine for 14 days. Close contacts of COVID-positive cases will be identified and monitored by the school nurse, and parents/guardians will be notified of their exposure. It is expected that close-contacts continue to self-monitor for potential symptoms. The positive case must isolate. If exposure occurs while either student is not wearing a mask they will need to quarantine at home.

The close contacts **MUST** self-monitor. These guidelines include:

- Social distance whenever possible
- Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and do a temperature check.
- If any symptoms develop, **STAY HOME**, notify your school nurse and speak with a healthcare provider about COVID-19 testing.
- If people who are self-monitoring become ill but do not get tested, they should remain home until 10 days after symptom onset

With this new guidance, the type of face covering is also very important. Single layered neck gaiters, bandanas, face shields and masks with valves will not count as appropriate face coverings to avoid the 14-day quarantine. **Therefore, we are asking students and staff to avoid the use of single layered gaiters, bandanas, face shields, and masks with holes in them.**

Exemptions: Those with documented health conditions on file with the school nurse will be considered for exemption to the mask policy. Please contact the school nurse to verify.

Events: These same guidelines apply to extracurricular events. If you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance for 15 continuous minutes while in the stands, you will need to wear a mask.

We greatly appreciate your support with our mask policy!

Go Bluejays and Jayettes!!!

Perry Administrators