

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With parents being connected today through social media and community events, I felt it would be beneficial to send out communication from me to ensure you have the correct information about current practices at Sturgis Elementary.

As you are aware, our school was moved from Phase II (orange) to Phase I (green) this week. In Phase II, face coverings are **required** when social distancing is not available. In Phase I, face coverings are **recommended** when social distancing is not available. Although we are in Phase I, we will still ask students to wear face coverings during those times when social distancing is not available. Examples include: Hallway transitions, when in close contact to others in the classroom, and when finished eating lunch. Students have the option to respectfully decline the request.

The promotion of face coverings decreases the number of people that may need to be quarantined for up to 14 days. When a staff/student tests positive for Covid, we are required to give names of individuals that may have been exposed to the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH will contact you if your child is a close contact and likely quarantine them for 14 days. If the staff/students are all wearing face coverings when in these close proximities, they would not be identified from the school as a close contact.

If a person tests positive for Covid and has chosen not to wear a face covering when social distancing isn't possible, all people in close proximity to this student, masked or unmasked, would be identified as a close contact. The use of face coverings by all students when necessary would drastically reduce the risk of your child being quarantined.

Our detailed district back to school plan is located on our web page. I invite all of you to look through it if you haven't.

[http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/files/9816/0140/7706/Meade\\_School\\_District\\_-\\_Back\\_to\\_School\\_Plan\\_9-29-2020\\_current.pdf](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/files/9816/0140/7706/Meade_School_District_-_Back_to_School_Plan_9-29-2020_current.pdf) )

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Chantal Ligtenberg  
Sturgis Elementary Principal