



Elementary
Phone-(660)652-3718
Fax-(660)652-3711

South Nodaway R-IV Elementary & High Schools
209 Morehouse St.
Barnard, Missouri 64423

High School
Phone-(660)652-3727
Fax-(660)652-3411

November 19th, 2020

Parents & Guardians,

Last week, Governor Mike Parson, the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) announced modifications to Missouri's K-12 reopening and operating guidance (<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-MO-K12-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>). This updated guidance offers some relief to students, families, and schools when it comes to the need to quarantine close contacts. This relief comes in the form of face coverings and the mandatory wearing of them while in the school building. In simplest terms, in a classroom where social distancing is not possible, and everyone in a class is wearing a mask, and there is a positive COVID-19 case within that class, the students in the past who were considered close contacts would be quarantined for fourteen days. **Now, all students are still placed in quarantine, however those listed as contacts and wearing proper face covering will be allowed to attend school. Before and after school activities are not exempt from quarantine under this guidance.** Individuals exposed to COVID-19 will need to self-monitor for symptoms and stay home at the first sign of illness. Those who test positive are still required to isolate at home.

Currently we have only suggested K-12 students wear a mask during times when social distancing is not possible. South Nodaway R-IV is now requiring students and staff to wear face coverings any time social distancing is not an option. If students are socially distanced in the classroom they will not be required to wear a mask. Face coverings may be temporarily removed during lunch, recess and when instructed by faculty or administration. Mask must meet the requirements specified in the DESE guidance. Gaiters or masks are ok but face shields are not. Currently this policy will be implemented PK-12.

At the time of this writing further guidance is needed from state and local health agencies concerning face coverings for patrons attending school functions and activities. Additional guidance will be shared as it becomes available.

We appreciate everyone's support and understanding as we continue to move through these unprecedented times. Keep in mind all of the decisions we are making are designed to keep everyone healthy, safe, and to keep everyone in school.

Sincerely,

South Nodaway R-IV Administration and Health Team