

Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools

Howells Attendance Center:
418 May Street
P.O. Box 159
Howells, NE 68641-0159



Dodge Attendance Center:
209 Ash Street
Dodge, NE 68633

Phone: (402) 986-1621
Fax: (402) 986-1261

Mark Ernst, Superintendent/Elem. Principal
Cole Fischer, 7-12 Principal/A.D.

Phone: (402) 693-2207
Fax: (402) 693-2209

September 24, 2020

Dear Students, Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On Monday, September 21st, Governor Rickett's released a new Directed Health Measure (DHM), which is to align all health districts statewide in regards to masking in school. Howells-Dodge Consolidated will be moving to **Tier II (Yellow)** and requiring masks to be worn by all students, staff, and visitors while in the building. The move is not because of any known positive cases in the building, but to better adhere to the new DHM. If needed, we can provide masks to students and visitors.

The main points of the New DHM is provided below. It basically states that everyone needs to mask in order to avoid mass quarantines. If this is followed, only positive cases will need to quarantine and everyone else can self-monitor. Here is a quick summary:

- If everyone is wearing a mask, only the positive person has to quarantine.
- If a positive person is not masked, everyone in close contact **has to quarantine even if masked.**
- If a positive person is masked and others aren't, both the positive and unmasked person must quarantine. **Please see the diagram on the next page for reference to protocol changes.**

This should be an easy transition as the overwhelming majority of students are already following the masking recommendation at school. This will ensure that we have everyone follow the same protocol all of the time. It will hopefully eliminate mass quarantines and schools having to do contact tracing. A reminder that the goal has always been to keep our doors open and students in the building. This will help us accomplish that. Schools that do not have a strong masking policy have been forced to shut down for weeks at a time and our hope is to avoid that from happening to us. It will also allow us to keep extracurricular activities running for our students to participate.

We will continue to provide times for mask breaks throughout the day. We appreciate everyone cooperating, communicating and their adherence to our protocols. Thanks for the team effort in keeping our kids in the classroom!

GO JAGS!

Howells-Dodge School Administration

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COVID-19 RESPONSE

Investigations: PreK-12 Settings

- In all scenarios below, a student is considered a **close contact** when they have been within **6 feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes**.
- If the exposure occurs during extracurricular activities that take place outdoors or in large spaces (such as gyms) where 6-foot distance can be maintained, in lieu of quarantine, close contacts may self-monitor.
- In all scenarios below, **students who are self-monitoring are required to wear masks**.
- PreK-12 students who are a **close contact due to exposure to a household member are required to quarantine**.

When a masked child tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE	SELF-MONITOR
COVID POSITIVE	CLOSE CONTACTS
<i>Everyone Masked</i>	

When an unmasked child tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE	QUARANTINE
COVID POSITIVE	CLOSE CONTACTS
<i>Close Contacts Masked</i>	

When a masked child tests positive and SOME close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE	QUARANTINE
COVID POSITIVE	SELF-MONITOR
<i>Some Close Contacts Masked</i>	

When an unmasked child tests positive and close contacts were NOT wearing masks...

ISOLATE	QUARANTINE
COVID POSITIVE	CLOSE CONTACTS
<i>No One Masked</i>	