

Dear District 8 families,

Last night Governor Doug Burgum issued two orders. I will do my best to explain to everyone how these orders affect us moving forward.

The first order I will talk to is the State Health Officer's Order 2020-08. In this order, it is now required to wear face coverings in indoor businesses, indoor public settings, and in outdoor business and public settings **when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing**. This order is effective November 14, 2020 through December 14, 2020. What this means for us is starting on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> until Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, masks will be required. This requirement will apply to all workers, students, and guests in any District #8 Property.

The State Health Officer's order 2020-08 also defines "Face Coverings". They can be paper or disposable face mask, a cloth face mask, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. The covering **MUST** cover the nose and mouth completely and consist of at least two layers. The order explains exempted individuals as follows:

1. Individuals with a medical condition that compromises their ability to breathe.
2. Mental health condition or individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
3. Children under the age of four years of age.
4. Individuals in a workplace where wearing a face covering would create a job hazard as determined by local, state, or federal regulators.

These individuals should consider using a Face Shield or staying at home as much as possible. Individuals with any of these conditions will need to be in contact with their school to make the necessary accommodations.

There are several circumstances where face coverings may be temporarily removed. They are as follows:

1. While participating in organized sports.
2. While testifying or speaking with physical distancing maintained.
3. While practicing musical instruments with physical distancing.
4. Where face coverings will get wet.
5. During eating or drinking.
6. To be identified for lawful purposes.
7. While communicating with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
8. When alone.
9. In a public safety role

Again, these individuals should consider using a Face Shield when possible. Please remember, this is just a summarization of the State Health Officer's order 2020-08. The full order can be found on the governors webpage [www.governor.nd.gov](http://www.governor.nd.gov)

Next, I will explain Governor Burgum's Executive Order 2020-43 as it pertains to us in the schools. This is not a complete explanation of this order. Again, the full order can be found at the governor's webpage [www.governor.nd.gov](http://www.governor.nd.gov). This order is effective Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and states as follows:

1. All association, community, and club sports for youth and adults are suspended until December 14<sup>th</sup>.
2. All extra-curricular activities, competitions, and non-school related activities are suspended until December 14<sup>th</sup>.

This means we will not be having any extra activities for the foreseeable future and at least until December 14<sup>th</sup>. Just to be clear, extra activities will be any activity, athletic or academic, that takes place outside the regular school day. Any first scheduled practices that were supposed to start on Monday are now canceled.

Thank you for your patience during difficult times.

David Goetz