MORA MUSTANGS
Exploring. Engaging. Empowering.

MORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 332

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October 29, 2021

Dear students, parents, and school staff,

I would like to share updated information on our school plans to help keep our students in-person learning. We continue to closely monitor school and county COVID-19 data to make the best decisions possible for our students and staff.

Mora Schools will continue to prioritize the following:

- In-person learning for all students
- The health and safety of students, staff, and visitors
- Providing a consistent student/school schedule for students, staff, and families

Over the past 28 days, we have continued to see cases of COVID-19 within our student and staff populations. The COVID-19 Mitigation Matrix and mitigation strategies that Mora Schools have implemented over the past 28 days have been effective.

Considering the high case rates in Kanabec County along with the continuation of positive cases within our schools, we will continue to follow our current COVID Matrix. Mora Schools will continue to re-evaluate these strategies every 28 days and make any changes based on the school and county data. We have had a decrease in our school COVID cases, and for the first time this school year Kanabec County case rates have declined as of October 28th. If we continue to see this trend, Mora Schools is prepared to make changes to our COVID-19 Matrix and mitigation strategies.

We also realize that required quarantines for high school students who are close contacts have been challenging and disruptive for students, parents, and staff. As a result, we are implementing a **change** to our quarantine practices. **High school students who are a close contact with COVID-19 positive cases will have the option to either quarantine (10 or 7 days) or wear a face covering at school.** This will allow students to stay in school and attend classes in-person if they choose to wear a face covering. **This practice will begin on Monday, November 1st.**

Below is the latest COVID-19 data we use to analyze and make decisions:

- Kanabec County COVID-19 numbers declined slightly last week, and currently the case rate levels are at 61 cases/10,000 people. The positive test rate within Kanabec County is at 8%, which is above the 5% recommended threshold.
- There are 3 Mora High School (MHS) students who are positive for COVID-19, which is .4% of our student population.
- There are 2 positive cases at Mora Elementary (MES) which is .2% of our school population.

The following mitigation measures will be continued for up to 28 days and will be re-evaluated on November 18th:

- Students, staff, and visitors at Mora Elementary are required to wear masks during school hours. Staff are providing mask breaks throughout the day outside like last school year.
- Mora High School staff, district staff, and visitors are required to wear masks. Masks help prevent healthy people from contracting the virus and infected people from spreading the virus.
- Mora High School students are strongly encouraged to wear masks at this time. Masks protect students and reduce the spread of COVID-19 to others.
- **CHANGE: Mora High School students who are determined to be a close contact will have the option to quarantine for 10, or 7 days with a negative COVID test, or wear a face covering at school.**
- When all Mora Elementary students are wearing masks properly, students who are close contacts will NOT be required to quarantine. (CDC Recommendation).
- We strongly recommend students, staff, and families order a **FREE** COVID-19 Vault saliva test from the Minnesota Department of Health to have on hand if needed. Results are back in 24-48 hrs. Link. Mora Schools is currently offering free COVID-19 tests to high school students.
- Mora Public Schools is working with Kanabec County Health and offers vaccination clinics to students and staff. Students will need parent permission to receive a vaccine. More information will be provided very soon. You may also visit Kanabec County or Welia Health if you are interested in a vaccine.

Mora Public Schools will continue to prioritize in-person learning five days a week along with protecting the health and safety of our students and staff. **All guidance and recommendations are subject to change based on Covid-19 circumstances within our school and community and/or in response to any state or federal requirements.**

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Mora Public Schools. We ask that you continue to show respect towards all Mora Mustang students, staff, and parents, regardless of their choices. We all share the same goal: We want our students to be able to come to school and learn with their classmates. Thank you for being positive role models by showing your Mustang Pride at all times. We are all better when we work together and show kindness towards one another. Together, we are Mora Mustang Strong! Please visit our website for the most current information on the 2021-22 school year at moraschools.org.

Dan Voce
Superintendent
Mora Public School