



November 4, 2020

Dear PRAS Families,

As a result of the MDHHS Emergency Order of October 29, 2020, we have asked our local health department and legal counsel for clarification surrounding the impact on our schools. We continue to work with educational leaders and stakeholders within local and state governments as well as experts in the health field to adopt policies and establish protocols for our school district that prioritizes the safety of our students and staff, as well as their families for the 2020-21 school year. Pine River is following the health department's guidance and directives as we make our district as safe as possible for continued face-to-face learning.

Based on legal opinion and the opinion of our Health Department, we will change our mask-wearing requirements in order to be compliant with the MDHHS order of October 29, 2020. Effective immediately, all PRAS students must wear a mask at school, including our K-5 cohort students. We will provide our K-5 students frequent mask breaks throughout the day while maintaining our cohorts and minimizing the risk of exposure. We will continue to follow health and safety recommendations in consultation with the Health Department. Please help us by discussing this small change with your affected K-5 student as we seek the right balance in providing a safe learning environment and educating all of our students during this health crisis. We know this will be new to many of our younger students, but our staff is committed to making this as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions as we work through challenges during these extraordinary times, please feel free to contact me or your building principal at (231) 829-3141.

Respectfully,

Matt Lukshaitis, Superintendent
Pine River Area Schools

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