



# Smart Restart Update

10.2.2020

Dear Fargo Public Schools Families and Staff,

During Governor Burgum's press conference on October 1, the ND Department of Health announced a [change in guidance regarding individuals identified as close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case](#). This change in guidance no longer requires identified close contacts to quarantine if **both parties were wearing a mask during the time of exposure**. Instead, individuals identified as close contacts will be directed to self-monitor and only quarantine if they become symptomatic. This is a very impactful change for the entire state, but for school districts in particular, as it now allows for healthy students and staff members that are following proper mask-wearing protocol to stay onsite unless they begin to exhibit symptoms.

**This guidance also has a retroactive component.** Fargo Public Schools (FPS) will be reviewing all school-related close contacts to determine if both parties were wearing masks during the time of exposure. If masks were worn and the close contact is asymptomatic, the close contact can return to school/work as of October 5\*. School administration will be contacting families and staff members who can return to school/work on October 5\*. Those that are not contacted should continue to quarantine.

**This updated guidance does not apply to those that live in the same household as a positive case.** If the individual identified as a close contact lives in the same household as a positive case, the close contact must complete the required quarantine prior to returning to school/work.

FPS will still be conducting contact tracing in the school setting every time we are notified of a positive case. Close contacts (those that were within six feet for longer than a cumulative 15 minutes) will be informed of their status and encouraged to self-monitor. If one or both of the parties were not wearing an appropriate face covering (a cloth reusable/washable or manufactured disposable mask covering that covers both the nose and mouth), identified close contacts will be required to quarantine. Please see below for a graphic from the Department of Health that can assist in determining when quarantine is needed.

Sincerely,

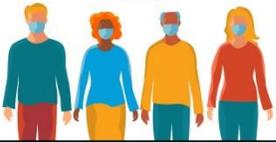
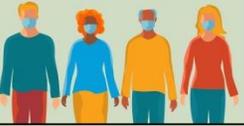
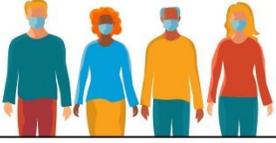
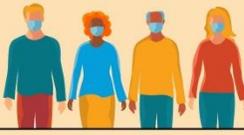
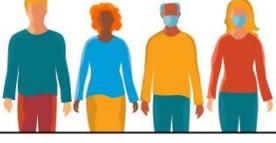
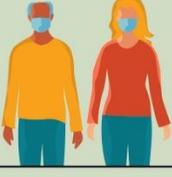
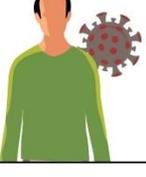
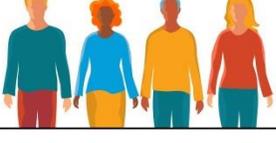
Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

*\* Middle and high school students will be in Level 2 – Distance Learning from October 5 – 19.*



# CLOSE CONTACTS AND FACE COVERINGS

For non-healthcare, non-residential settings, quarantine is no longer necessary if a potential exposure occurs while both the infectious individual and the close contacts are wearing face coverings consistently and correctly.

| COVID-19 POSITIVE PATIENT |   | CLOSE CONTACTS   | ISOLATE   | QUARANTINE  | SELF-MONITOR SYMPTOMS   |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| WEARING A MASK            |    | ALL WEARING A MASK<br>    |    |   |    |
| NOT WEARING A MASK        |   | ALL WEARING A MASK<br>   |   |   |   |
| WEARING A MASK            |  | SOME WEARING A MASK<br> |  |  |  |
| NOT WEARING A MASK        |  | NONE WEARING A MASK<br> |  |  |   |

Updated 10/1/2020

