



Midland Community School
106 W Webster Street
PO Box 109
Wyoming, IA 52362-0109

Phone: (563) 488-2292
Fax (563) 488-2253
www.midland.k12.ia.us

Administration

Todd Hawley
Superintendent
thawley@midland.k12.ia.us

Carol Guenther
Secondary Principal
cguenther@midland.k12.ia.us

Deanna Martens
Elementary Principal
dmartens@midland.k12.ia.us

Ryan Steines
HS Athletic Director
rsteines@midland.k12.ia.us

Raymond Dosland
MS Athletic/HS Fine Arts Director
rdosland@midland.k12.ia.us

Counseling Office
Debra Brokaw
Secondary Counselor
dbrokaw@midland.k12.ia.us

Sandy Hein
Elementary Counselor
shein@midland.k12.ia.us

Makenzie Lasack
Secondary Counselor
mlasack@midland.k12.ia.us

Business Office
Megan Frankfurt
Board Secretary/Business Manager
mfrankfurt@midland.k12.ia.us

Michelle Hansen
Administrative Assistant/Powerschool
mihansen@midland.k12.ia.us

Erika Tubbs
Administrative Assistant/Nutrition
etubbs@midland.k12.ia.us

Kelly Stillwagon
Human Resources
kstillwagon@midland.k12.ia.us

Medical
Christine Gent
School Nurse
cgent@midland.k12.ia.us

October 8, 2020

Dear Midland Families,

Last week the Iowa Department of Public Health released new guidance in regards to masks and quarantines. Over the last month, schools across Iowa have had to quarantine large groups of students due to close contact tracing when a positive Covid case is found. Under new guidance released last week that protocol has changed.

Students wearing masks (**Gaiters and face shields are NOT Covered under this new guidance**) and are within the 6 foot/15 minute criteria, would NOT need to quarantine if both parties were wearing a mask. The positive Covid case would still quarantine for 10 days but the other close contact students would not. I am also sending out the latest guidance from the IDPH that outlines the new guidance in a flowchart for possible scenarios.

My goal from the beginning of this school year has always been to create the safest and best educational experience for our students and staff. I have also said that the best educational experience was to have students in a face to face environment as safely as possible. I believe we have done that. I also know that our families need consistency and that going to school every day and all day is best for families. We have students and families that need our support in regards to our nutrition programs and our social and emotional support throughout the day and week.

As a result of this new guidance from the IDPH, the Midland School Board voted to approve a mask requirement when social distancing is not possible. **Our statement reads- "When social distancing is not possible, all students and staff will be required to wear a mask while in the school building or while using school transportation. This includes all before and after school activities."** This is for K-12 students. This is not a decision we took lightly but believe it allows us to create an environment where the majority of students will continue to be taught face to face five days a week, continue the consistency for families, support students' social/emotional learning and provide nutritious meals to all our students.

This is **NOT** an entire day mandate of mask wearing. Some classes are able to social distance and would not need to wear a mask. There are some that are much larger and will need to wear one during that time.

*Masks **Would be** needed in small group instruction or where students are gathered together for 15 minutes and within 6 feet of each other. This includes school transportation.

*Students will **Not** need to wear masks at recess or in the hallways during passing.

* Students will **Not** need to wear masks during large group or classroom instruction if there is space to maintain the social distancing guidelines within the rooms.

In regards to indoor activities and sporting events in the gym, we will require students and staff to wear a mask if social distancing is not possible. We will continue to highly recommend a mask for our parents and fans that attend.

We want to be able to keep our schools open, have students participate in extracurricular activities and keep everyone healthy. Based on recommendation from health experts, it is important for our entire community to practice these 5 areas:

1. Physically distance ourselves as much as possible.
2. Wear masks when we cannot be physically distant.
3. Wash hands often.
4. Sanitize our school facilities carefully.
5. Staff and students must stay home if they are ill.

We will be starting this change on Monday, October 12, 2020. We would ask that you send a mask or two with your child to school on Monday for those instances where they might be needed. If you are not able to provide one on Monday, the school will provide one for you. Gaiters and face shields are NOT covered as legitimate face coverings and would need to be treated as a 14 day quarantine if a positive case occurred. Thank you for supporting us as we stay fluid with new guidance from the state and make adjustments that help support our students, families and staff. If you have questions please send me an email or a phone call. 563-488-2292 or thawley@midland.k12.ia.us

Sincerely,

Mr. Hawley, Superintendent
The Midland School Board and Administration