



20 Madison St. ~ P.O. Box 280 ~ Griswold, Iowa 51535

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November 17, 2020

Dear Griswold Community School District parents, students, staff, and community members:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some updated information concerning COVID and our district.

Over the past few days, the 14-day average positivity rate for Cass County has slightly decreased. Presently, this rate is 18.6%. As stated in previous communication, this number represents the percentage of Cass County residents who have tested positive for COVID over the past 14 days when compared to the total number of Cass County residents who received a COVID test over the same 14 day period. Our district continues to be impacted on a smaller scale compared to other districts around the state. Since the start of the 2020-21 school year, the district has received notice of the following positive COVID tests:

- 3 Elementary Students
- 6 Middle / High School Students
- 9 Staff Members

Just a reminder that these number can be found on our district's web page. The "COVID Case Counter" is displayed under the NEWS section.

The Griswold Board of Education met in regular session on November 16. As a part of the posted agenda, several aspects relating to COVID were addressed. The following is a summary of the board's action.

1. The district will continue with the mask mandate until further notice. This mandate went in effect on October 7. This mandate requires all students, staff, and visitors to wear CDC approved face coverings while inside school facilities during the hours of 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during school days when social distancing is not possible. This requirement is also extended to school transportation, regardless of the time of day or if school is in session.
2. As per the Governor's November 16 proclamation, all junior high and youth athletic events (including practices and competitions) are suspended through December 10. It should be noted that when these restrictions are lifted by the Governor, the protocols listed in number 3 below will apply to both junior high and youth sports held in our school facilities.



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3. Also per the Governor's November 10 proclamation, high school athletics will be allowed to continue. The following protocols will be followed.
  - A. Spectators will be limited to 2 per athlete. Tickets will be given to each athlete for each event. The athlete will select who the tickets are given to.
  - B. All spectators are required to wear a CDC approved face covering when entering the facility and must continue to wear the covering until they exit the facility. Exceptions will be made when spectators are eating or drinking.
  - C. Spectators must social distance (at least 6 feet apart) from others unless they are from the same household.
  - D. Spectators must clear the facility immediately following an event and spectators will not be allowed to enter the facility until a few minutes prior to the start. For example, during a varsity girls basketball and varsity basketball event, only spectators who have tickets for the girls game will be allowed into the facility for the girls' game. Once the girls' game has concluded, all spectators will have to exit the building. The facility will be sanitized by district personnel. Once sanitization has been completed, spectators who have tickets for the boys' game will be omitted.
  - E. Griswold coaches and athletes must wear a CDC approved face covering during a game or competition when not actively competing.

As in the past, we ask that parents / guardians continue to monitor their student's health. Anyone exhibiting COVID symptoms need to see a health care professional.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. As a district, we want to assure our school community that the safety and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority. We will continue to be diligent in following guidance from local, state, and federal health agencies to keep our school community as safe as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact a school administrator or the school nurse at 712-778-2154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Henrichs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "H".

David Henrichs, Superintendent