

**Indoor Graduated Masking Policy for Grades 4K-6.** Until such time that students in grades K-6 have the opportunity to become fully vaccinated, the district administrator, in conjunction with the SDMA school nurses, will implement the following graduated masking policy for students in grades 4K-6:

In the event that a student or staff member attended school within 48 hours of having a case of COVID-19,

- (1.) All students (regardless of vaccination status) in the grade level (or building if a single section school) in which the exposure occurred will be required to wear masks for a time period covering 14 calendar days after the exposure.
- 2.) If the number of COVID-19 student exclusions in a particular school reaches 10% or more of the school's enrollment, masks may be required at that school until the rate of exclusions is sustained below 10% as determined by the district on a weekly basis.

In the event that masks become mandated in a classroom, grade level, or school building:

- The mask mandate only refers to the school day, and while indoors.
- The mask mandate is not dependent on the age or vaccination status of individual students in those grade levels.
- Medical exemptions from the mask mandate will be allowed if appropriate documentation from a medical doctor is provided.
- Masks can be removed for eating, drinking, and during rigorous physical activity.
- Masks will not be required for any optional school functions that occur outside of the school day.
- Teachers will be allowed to use their discretion to provide mask breaks when adequate distancing can be achieved (at least 6') or when students are seated silently at their desks.
- Staff members are strongly encouraged to follow the same masking protocols as their students.

This mask policy will end for all SDMA students after students in grades K-6 have the opportunity to become fully vaccinated (estimated to be approximately 6 weeks after children first become eligible for the vaccine). Students are not required to be vaccinated for this policy to end.