

East Marshall Community School



204 West Center Street
PO Box 159
Gilman, IA 50106

ANTHONY RYAN, SUPERINTENDENT

PHONE (641) 498-7481

MATT RASMUSSEN, 9-12 PRINCIPAL

JANELLE PIRKL, 4-8 PRINCIPAL

RILEY MYERS, BUSINESS MANAGER/BOARD SECRETARY

FAX (641) 498-2035

CATHY DEBONDT, PK-3 PRINCIPAL

October 1, 2020

Dear East Marshall Parents, Guardians, and Students:

The beginning of the 2020-2021 school year has been busy. Our hallways are now full with students and staff, and the new health mitigation strategies have become common practices. We appreciate all of the support from our East Marshall families.

This letter is to inform you of some recent changes to COVID-19 related practices. Last Tuesday Governor Reynolds held a press conference and announced some recent changes in determining “When to Quarantine” in the school setting. The Iowa Department of Public Health and Governor Reynolds emphasized the importance of wearing face masks. The IDPH shared that a recent study of mitigation practices in Iowa school districts is what prompted some changes on when to quarantine in response to COVID-19.

Attached to this email is a document that briefly describes the processes that the East Marshall School District will utilize in making COVID-19 related decisions. As previously stated in other letters to parents, the East Marshall School District will continue to collaborate with the IDPH when making determinations.

A close contact will continue to be defined as being within six (6) feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for fifteen (15) consecutive minutes or more.

The criteria for quarantining after a close contact determination is now directly related to the use of face masks. When face masks are not used, quarantining will be implemented. However, when face masks are used, then quarantining will be limited and self-monitoring will be the emphasis. The IDPH has determined that face shields do not count and do not replace a face mask. Please reference the attached document for more specific guidance.

The isolation for positive COVID-19 cases has not changed.

The district is following the IDPH guidance and legal obligation with respecting confidentiality protocols for students and staff in regards to health related topics. COVID-19 is a health-related topic. Any confirmed cases that are less than five (5) will be reported to the public as “less than 5”, per Iowa Dept. of Education guidance. At the end of each week the “COVID-19 Weekly Stats” tab on the school district website will be updated.

We continue to strongly emphasize mitigation practices in our school system on a daily basis. Proper hand washing is required for all students and staff as they enter the school buildings. Face

masks are to be utilized whenever possible. Social distancing is an expectation and we continue to ask students and staff to stay home when they are ill.

We realize that the start of the 2020-2021 school has been like no other. We value our families, students, and staff. We are grateful for the commitment our families have exhibited to the norms and practices that have been put in practice.

As always, today is a great day to be a Mustang!

Yours in education,

Anthony Ryan

Superintendent