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September 29, 2020

Dear Westwood Community and Staff,

I received an email this afternoon from Siouxland District Health Department that notified us that there has been a change in guidance for the definition of who would be identified as a "close contact." This will be announced by the Governor at tomorrow's press conference.

Close contacts (less than 6 ft for more than 15 consecutive minutes) of COVID-19 confirmed cases will not need to be quarantined for 14 days if a face covering was worn by both people during the exposure.

- Both people need to be wearing a face covering during the exposure to prevent the quarantine.
- Any type of face covering is acceptable if it is covering both the nose and mouth.
 - A face shield is not considered a face covering and quarantine is still required if one or more people are wearing a face shield only.
- People currently in quarantine may discontinue that quarantine if both people were wearing a face covering at the time of exposure.
- This is not a replacement for social distancing and the district will continue to work at providing as much distance as possible.
- Household contacts and contacts in health care settings will still have the 14 day quarantine recommendation.

Currently our policy states face coverings (nose and mouth) are strongly encouraged, but not required. On Wednesday at noon, the Westwood Board will have a meeting to discuss and approve a mandatory mask policy. The policy that will be discussed is:

- Masks are required for students in grades 4-12 when on a bus, in the hallway, classroom or when social distancing is not possible.
- Students in grades 4-12 that cannot medically wear a mask must provide a doctor's note.
- Students that refuse to wear a mask will be provided an online learning option.
- Staff will document students wearing masks in classrooms per Siouxland District Health Department.

The mission of the Westwood Community School District is to provide the environment

and curriculum necessary to assist all students in achieving their fullest potential.