

May 19, 2021

RE: Updated Mask Guidance

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

On the evening of Tuesday, May 18th, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) once again updated its mask requirements guidance. Per this updated guidance, OHA strongly recommends but no longer requires that masks be worn outdoors. According to OHA, this applies to participants, spectators, etc., regardless of vaccination status or the sport's / activity's designated contact risk level.

However, during school hours, we are still required to follow Ready School Safe Learners guidance that does require us to wear masks during school hours whether indoors or outdoors and while on the district campus. This will remain in effect during the rest of this school year.

Direct excerpt from guidance:

OHA strongly recommends that individuals who are unvaccinated or who are at risk for severe COVID-19 disease continue to wear a mask, face covering or face shield when in outdoor crowded areas and in outdoor large gatherings of individuals and maintain physical distancing. Crowded areas and large gatherings of individuals include but are not limited to venues, event areas, sports events, fairs, festivals, parades, graduation ceremonies or wedding receptions.

We will be working with our student-athletes and coaches along with our youth programs who use our facilities and/or fields to adjust this guidance. Thank you for your patience as we communicate these changes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leo
Superintendent
Banks SD