

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 confirmed case of COVID-19,

- (1.) All non-excluded 4K-6 grade students (regardless of vaccination status) in the classrooms where the infected person spent at least 15 minutes will be required to wear masks for a time period covering 14 calendar days.
- (2.) If additional cases of COVID-19 occur in the same grade level during the 14-day time period, the masking requirement may be expanded to the entire grade level for an additional period of 14 calendar days.
- (3.) If the average number of COVID-19 student exclusions in any particular school exceeds 10% over the previous five school days, masks may be required for all 4K-6 grade students at that school for a period of 14 calendar days.

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.