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DATE: July 23, 2020

TO: Bemidji Area Schools Parents/Guardians

FROM: Tim Lutz, Superintendent of Schools



SUBJECT: Face Coverings

On March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequent executive orders have been issued to address methods of reducing the spread of COVID-19. The efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are based on information provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and other public health agencies.

On July 22, 2020, Governor Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-81 which requires individuals to wear a face covering in certain settings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with the executive order, parents and guardians are being asked to provide their child(ren) with an appropriate cloth face covering and to instruct their child(ren) on how to appropriately use/wear the face covering. Bemidji Area Schools has a limited supply of face coverings that can be used if a student, staff member, or visitor forgets their face covering.

The following exceptions shall apply:

- Children five (5) years of age or younger;
- Individuals actively eating or drinking;
- Individuals unable to wear a face covering due to medical, disability, or developmental reasons that have been exempted by a licensed medical professional;
- Individuals speaking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and requires the mouth to be visible to communicate; and,

Additional requirements and exceptions can be found in Emergency Executive Order 20-81 which can be found at: https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-81%20Final_tcm1055-441107.pdf

The requirement to wear a cloth face covering is **effective Saturday, July 25, 2020.**

The health and safety of our students, staff and the community is our highest priority. I want to thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.