

# BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS

502 MINNESOTA AVENUE NW ◊ BEMIDJI, MN 56601

502 MINNESOTA AVENUE NW ◊ BEMIDJI, MN 56601

## TIM LUTZ, SUPERINTENDENT

218-333-3100 ext 31120

Fax 218-333-3129

**A. WILDE**  
DIRECTOR OF  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
218-333-3100 ext 31104  
Fax 218-333-3129

**J. HICKMAN**  
DIRECTOR OF  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
218-333-3100 ext 31113  
Fax 218-333-3127

**K. FENNER**  
DIRECTOR OF  
BUSINESS SERVICES  
218-333-3100 ext 31121  
Fax 218-333-3127

**C. CARDENUTO**  
DIRECTOR OF  
CURRICULUM & ADMIN SERVICES  
218-333-3100 ext 31103  
Fax 218-333-3148

### ISD 31 Families:

I am writing today to inform you about recent updates to the face covering mandates and what those mandates mean for our summer programs in Bemidji Public Schools.

Last week, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) updated the face covering mandate to a strong recommendation that anyone unvaccinated continue to wear a face covering outside of their own home. However, face coverings are **still required to be worn by those in child care settings such as Kids & Company and when riding on a school bus** through June 30 or until 70% of our state's population has been vaccinated.

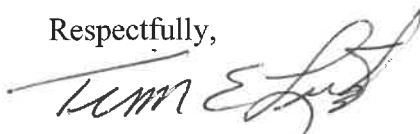
Based upon the recommendations of the MDH and the CDC, Bemidji Area Schools recommends face coverings for unvaccinated staff and students participating in district-sponsored programs in school facilities. The recommendations are due to lower vaccination rates among children 12-15 years old and because children under 12 are not yet eligible for vaccination. As we have done throughout the school year, Bemidji Public Schools will continue to follow the guidance of the experts at MDH and the CDC.

Please note that we are still asking people to continue practicing the COVID-19 mitigation strategies to the extent possible. These include:

- Keep students and staff home from all activities when they or someone in the household is sick and/or is being tested for COVID-19. Please report absences to your attendance coordinators. We will follow up with the dates that students may safely return to their summer activities at school.
- Good hand hygiene, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, and wearing face coverings if unvaccinated.

Thank you for working with us at Bemidji Area School to keep all students and staff healthy and safe. Have a wonderful summer!

Respectfully,



Tim Lutz, Superintendent