



# Brainerd Public Schools

*Opportunity. Innovation. Success.*

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July 22, 2020

Dear Warrior Family,

What a whirlwind the last five months have been! I want to thank each and every one of you for your patience and kindness as we have been navigating our new normal. Today, I am writing to give you an update from Governor Tim Walz regarding [Emergency Executive Order 20-81](#), "Requiring Minnesotans to Wear a Face Covering in Certain Settings to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19."

Governor Walz announced this afternoon that he has issued an emergency executive order requiring Minnesotans to wear face coverings (as defined in the executive order as paper or disposable face mask, cloth face mask, scarf, bandana, neck gaiter, or a religious face covering - [How to Safely Wear Your Mask](#)) in "an indoor business or public indoor space, including when waiting outdoors to enter an indoor business or public indoor space." This order goes into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2020.

You are likely asking, "How will this affect children and staff at Brainerd Public Schools and those currently enrolled in Community Education, Fun & Friends etc.?" The Emergency Executive Order, "applies to all Minnesotans, making exemptions for children who are five-years-old and under, and those with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. Included in those settings where masks will be required, are school buildings, both public and nonpublic. Face coverings are generally required for all students, staff and other persons present in any kindergarten through grade 12 school buildings and district offices or riding on school transportation vehicles. To provide a consistent, safe environment for students and staff, this requirement applies equally to kindergartners, even those aged five and under" stated MDE Commissioner Ricker. Students and staff have flexibility to wear face shields in certain situations. Face coverings will not be required in outdoor areas where social distancing can be maintained.

In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19: wear a face covering when you enter any indoor facility; continue to thoroughly and frequently wash your hands; avoid crowds and practice appropriate 6-ft. social distancing. Please also be advised that we have been promised an announcement regarding SY2020-21 school start, during the week of Monday, July 27, 2020 by Governor Walz and Mary Cathryn Ricker, MDE Commissioner of Education.

Together, we will get through this while looking out for the safety and well-being of one another. As Lt. Governor Flanagan said, "In MN, we care about one another." Please take care of yourself and your loved ones during this time. I will keep you updated as we move towards the school year; whether it be in person, distance learning and/or a hybrid model. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laine D. Larson, Superintendent  
Brainerd Public Schools - ISD 181