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Bulldog Families,

We have a few important updates as we begin the week.

As you are likely aware, the [Panhandle Public Health COVID Dial](#) moved to the orange risk level today as the number of active cases within our community grows. However, it is also important that we rationally weigh the factors moving the dial; it is strongly impacted by increased community spread. At this time, we have one active case within our GPS buildings (out of an enrollment of 1900).

With that said, our response as a district will be to **remain in an in-person learning environment**. The number of cases in our buildings simply doesn't prompt a level of disruption to our current learning environment. However, it is also important that we are mindful and responsive to the increased risk level in our community. Our strategy as a district will be to tighten protocols related to the number of outside visitors coming into our buildings. We are making the following changes to COVID-19 protocols due to the increased risk and moving into our Orange operational zone. These changes take effect Wednesday, October 14th:

- Spectator capacity will be limited at indoor events in Gering Public School buildings. Only immediate families (as noted in the school's student information system-Infinite Campus) will be admitted into competitions.
- Visiting teams will also be required to provide a list of their player's immediate family
- Masks will **continue to be REQUIRED** at all indoor Gering Public School events.
- View a full listing of changes to our [updated Spectator Guide](#)
- The mask opt-out option is not available while operating within the Orange operational zone.

We are also finalizing modifications to our parent-teacher conference schedules and delivery methods. Elementary (PreK-5) will be offering in-person options but spread out through additional nights to limit crowding and all conferences will be pre-scheduled. Secondary (6-12) will offer virtual scheduling options only and updated information about how to schedule will be shared by Wednesday.



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We know these changes will likely prompt strong reactions but our priority for this year remains the same - we need to do what we can to keep our schools open for students and provide a safe environment for staff and students. But we need your help and cooperation as a Bulldog Community to do that.

To review the orange operational zone information and these recent changes, view the updated Back-to-School guide at <https://www.geringschools.net/district/news/2020/07/29/gps-2020-21-back-to-school-guide/>.

Have a nice evening, Bulldogs!