

RETURN TO LEARN



(revised 8/8/22)



In May of 2021, the Iowa Department of Public Health adjusted its guidance to recommend that schools and childcare settings approach COVID-19 like other child illnesses.

[IDPH Guidance for Childhood Illnesses](#)

Our continued mitigation strategies are outlined below in an effort to maintain the health of our staff and students. *These efforts may continue to be modified throughout the year. Changes to the plan that occur prior to the next six month review will be determined by administration with notice of the changes provided to the Board.*

Return to Learn PK-12

Prevention

- Vaccination is strongly encouraged for those eligible. (vaccines.gov)
- Masks will be available for use in all of our schools.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the buildings:
 - Locations may include but are not limited to: lunchrooms, health office, exits/entrances, pods, library, classrooms, computer labs.
- High-quality air filters will remain the standard in our systems and we have appropriate levels of air exchanges at a rate that maximizes the rate of turnover of fresh air in our schools.

Health

- Nurses will be in contact, before school start date, with parents of students who have chronic health illnesses and implement a plan to keep them as safe as possible. Nurses can answer any questions from parents regarding any new health concerns about a student also.
- Students and staff should stay home when they are sick.
- Nurses will send symptomatic students home and will recommend testing. Parents should let someone in the health office know if your student tests positive. We recommend that families consider quarantining those household members who are not vaccinated and/or vaccinated members showing symptoms.
- When a student or staff member tests positive, they will be expected to follow current

isolation protocols (5 days). Individuals are able to return after 5 days (from the onset of symptoms) as long as they are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic with improving symptoms and fever free for 24 hours. Upon return, individuals will be expected to wear a mask for the next 5 days.

Communication

- Notification of cases will follow local public health guidance.
 - At this time the Iowa Department of Public Health is no longer contact tracing.

Return to Learn PK-6 Specific

Building Practices

- Visitors will be allowed to enter the school building and masks will be available for use in all PK-5 buildings. Access to lunch and/or breakfast will be available.
- Drinking fountains will be used as water bottle filling stations only.

Classroom Procedures

- Instrumental music may use bell covers and physical spacing.
- K-5 general music may utilize physical distancing or large indoor or outdoor spaces when singing.
- School-wide assemblies can occur.
- 5th and 6th grade elective music classes may utilize physical distancing to the extent possible.
- Physical distancing and/or utilization of outdoor spaces may be used in physical education when high intensity activities are conducted.

Communication

- A staffing shortage, COVID-related, or otherwise, could result in a temporary closure of one or more classrooms or schools, or the district.