

RETURN TO LEARN



2021-22



In May, 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.*

Return to Learn PK-12

Prevention

- Vaccination is strongly encouraged for those eligible.
- Masks are strongly encouraged for unvaccinated individuals and will be available for use in all of our schools.
- Masks will be required to be worn on school busses, per CDC order regarding public transportation.
- 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 may recommend testing. Parents should let someone in the health office know if your student or someone in your family tests positive. The only person who needs to stay home is the person that is positive.
- When a student or staff member tests positive, they will be expected to follow current

isolation protocols (10 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.
- The district will maintain a Covid dashboard by school updated once per week.

Return to Learn PK-6 Specific

Building Practices

- Visitors in general are discouraged from entering the school building during the school day (Grades PK-7) unless needing to come into the office to pick their child up from school, drop them off or to attend a meeting.
- Schools will avoid indoor field trips where crowds will be gathered.
- Drinking fountains will be used as water bottle filling stations only.
- Online option provided for K-6 families with one or more members who are considered to have a “significant health condition”, and will be provided through an external vendor.

Classroom Procedures

- Physical spacing, to the extent possible, will be utilized in classrooms.
- Instrumental music will use bell covers and physical spacing to the extent possible.
- K-5 general music will utilize physical distancing or large indoor or outdoor spaces when singing or will change the scope and sequence of their curriculum to focus on non-singing standards when physical distancing or larger spaces are not available.
- School-wide assemblies and K-5 music concerts will be on hold at this time.
- 5th and 6th grade elective music classes will utilize physical distancing to the extent possible.
- Physical distancing and/or utilization of outdoor spaces will be used in physical education when high intensity activities are conducted.

Communication

- We will be emailing families of students at the PK-5 level if their child was in the same grade as a student with a known case of Covid.