

Message from Dr. Kristen Rickey, Superintendent

July, 2021

Revised August 18, 2021

Revised January 10, 2022

Revised March 15, 2022

Revised September 12, 2022

Revised March 13, 2023

To our Families, Employees, and Community Members:

Thank you for all the support and flexibility as we addressed the changing state of knowledge of the virus and the safety protocols needed to provide the safest learning environment for our students and staff.

Please note that we are required to review our Return to Learn plan at least every six months, and if there are changes we will provide an opportunity for your feedback.

It has been announced that the Federal Health Emergency will end on May 11, 2023. As a result, many of the emergency plans in this document will no longer be necessary and will be revised or removed. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we will continue to update our procedures as we learn more and receive guidance from the Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Education.

The Federal Health Emergency will end on May 11, 2023.

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services has announced they will stop tracking and reporting positive COVID-19 cases March 31, 2023. The COVID-19 information will be tracked along with other respiratory viruses through the Iowa Respiratory Surveillance report. County transmission rates will no longer be readily available.

As a result of these changes, we are removing many of the special procedures that applied during the health emergency. Your child's health and safety remain a top priority for us, and normal procedures we take to protect them will continue.

Thank you for your patience, support, and encouragement as we work through this challenging time together. We feel confident that together, we will continue to have successful school years ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristen Rickey, Superintendent

INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

Our instructional delivery will be in person instruction. Schools will be on site for all students Monday through Friday according to our normal calendar.

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT HEALTH

Parents are asked to complete a brief health screening process at home before sending the student to school as they would with any other illness. The student should stay home if he/she is symptomatic or sick.

COVID-19 positive persons can return to normal activities after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared
 - Under CDC guidance, this can be shortened to 5 days if the person testing positive wears a mask consistently and correctly for 5 additional days. If the person who tested positive cannot or chooses not to wear a mask, he/she must remain out of school for the full 10 days.
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation

All other sick students, teachers, or other staff members should stay home in accordance with existing school procedures, generally until 24 hours after their symptoms resolve.

Employees will follow the same self-administered pre-screening described above for students and **MUST** stay home if showing any symptoms of illness until they are 24 hours symptom free.

Employees must notify their supervisor if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19 or are directly exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES

Our goal is to protect the health and safety of our staff and students. Normal pre-pandemic procedures and practices for day to day instruction will continue, including cleaning protocols, classroom and lunch seating arrangements, handwashing, volunteers and visitors, and transportation.