



Fostering learning, excellence and civic responsibility!

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) How will the district choose what learning model we will operate within?

- a. The State has provided guidance upon the [County's percentage of COVID-19 cases over a 14-day period](#). The Governor has stressed the importance of in-person instruction with the flexibility for parents to choose online instruction. Here is the link to the [State's guidance](#) for determining which learning model districts should use, and when to transition to another model.

2) What is the Districts stance on temperature checks?

- a. Symptom screening of students/staff is expected to be practiced prior to leaving home. School nurses will monitor/assist students during the school day. Here is a link to the [COVID-19 Health Screening Guide](#).

3) What is the Districts stance on masks or face coverings?

- a. At this time, Masks or face coverings are highly recommended for students and staff. Sixty-nine percent of our 439 survey respondents were opposed to requiring masks of students in any setting. Seventy-six percent of the respondents were opposed to requiring masks of students or staff at any time. Of the 187 staff members who responded to a survey, fifty-nine percent were opposed to requiring masks of students or staff in any setting. In addition to the survey results, we reviewed CDC guidelines, Iowa Department of Public Health Guidelines, and Iowa Department of Education Guidelines.
- b. The District does reserve the right to modify practices based on direction from the Iowa Department of Education and Public Health officials.

4) What other steps is the District taking to protect students and staff?

- a. The District is implementing several measures to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 exposure. These are explained in the [District Return-to-Learn Plan](#).

5) How is the District handling school transportation?

- a. We are planning to run our buses in the same fashion as in the past. This means that buses will sometimes be crowded. It is highly recommended that students wear masks or face coverings on the buses. Whenever possible, parents are encouraged to transport their own students to minimize the number of riders on the buses.

6) What is the status of activities and athletics?

- a. We continue to follow the guidance of the governing bodies for high school athletics, music and speech. As of today, we are participating with mitigation measures in place.

7) Why is the District dismissing at 1:15 on Fridays?

- a. For the near future, the District will be providing both face-to-face and distance learning opportunities. Teachers will need time to prepare, collaborate, and communicate as they stretch to meet the needs of all learners. In addition, this provides our maintenance team with an opportunity for more intensive cleaning and disinfecting.
- b. In an effort to serve our students and families, Friday afternoon sports practices will be held right after classes are dismissed. Coaches will reschedule their professional development time to allow for the practices.



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8) Will the District communicate COVID-19 case counts/exposures?

- a. Yes, with the lead taken by Public Health/CDC and within HIPPA guidelines. At this point in time, the District is planning to communicate with instructions during the following scenarios. The District reserves the right to modify practices based on direction from the Iowa Department of Education and Public Health Officials.
 - i. Personal/direct communication with a student/family who reports a positive case.
 - ii. Personal/direct communication to students/families who are within close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes) of a reported positive case in a school setting.
 - iii. Personal/direct communication to students/families when a student/teacher/coach in a group/class/team has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- b. Here is the link to the State guidance on [Evaluating Sick Students and Staff](#).

9) Do parents have an option to select remote learning?

- a. Yes. Parents have the option to select remote learning for students if they determine it to be in the best interests of their child(ren). In the remote setting, attendance will be taken, assessments administered, and grades assigned. If parents desire this option, they should complete the [Request for Remote Learning Form](#) and make an appointment with the appropriate building principal.
 - i. Students are able to transition to or from the face-to-face or remote models by coordinating the switch with the appropriate building principal. These transitions should be infrequent and only made with serious consideration given to what is best for the student.
 - ii. Students operating in the remote-learning model are able to participate in extra-curricular activities outside of the school day, but are not able to “pick and choose” participation during the school day.

10) What is the practice for visitors/volunteers during the school day?

- a. The District will limit any non-essential visitors as determined by the District administration. All visitors must sign in at the office and will be required to wear a mask or face covering at all times.