

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

Revised September 11, 2023

Revised March 11, 2024

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.

The Federal Health Emergency ended May 11, 2023. As a result, many of the emergency plans in our original document are no longer necessary and were 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. Iowa Department of Health and Human Services has stopped 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 removed 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 except as determined necessary for weather cancellations. 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.

As the threat from COVID-19 becomes more similar to that of other common respiratory viruses, CDC is issuing Respiratory Virus Guidance, rather than additional virus-specific guidance. This brings a unified, practical approach to addressing risk from a range of common respiratory viral illnesses, such as influenza and RSV, that have similar routes of transmission and symptoms and similar prevention strategies. The updated Respiratory Virus Guidance recommends people with respiratory virus symptoms that are not better explained by another cause stay home and away from others until at least 24 hours after both resolution of fever AND overall symptom are getting better.

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

- 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.

## 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.***