

Clarke Community School District
2021-2022 Return to Learn Information/COVID-19 Update

August 13, 2021

Again this school year, Clarke Community Schools will continue to diligently engage with and evaluate the evolving guidance regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including the most current Clarke County Public Health, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Education and Governor's Office guidelines.

In addition, we will continue to monitor our local school, community and county conditions as we prepare for the start of school on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. As we were last school year, we will be deliberate in our approach in planning for a successful 2021-2022 school year with a renewed focus on student learning and engagement.

School Day Procedures

- Clarke Community Schools will adhere to the board approved 2021-2022 school calendar, to the fullest extent possible.
- Clarke Community Schools will offer full-time, 100% on campus learning for students. Students will follow the regular school schedule.
- Clarke Community Schools will offer an online option for students with a qualifying and documented health condition. Remote instruction will not be offered as a student choice.
- Affiliated educational services such as nutrition and transportation will conduct operations in their standard manner.
- School breakfast and lunches are provided free of charge this year through the Seamless Summer Option.

Daily Health Practices and Routines

- The District will continue to utilize ventilation and cleaning strategies known to support a safe and healthy learning school environment.
- Teachers will emphasize good hand hygiene and may direct or instruct students on handwashing in an age appropriate fashion.
- Attention will be given to frequent sanitizing of high touch surfaces.
- Water bottle filling stations, rather than water fountains, will be used in buildings.
- Social distancing will be supported to the extent possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout district buildings.

Monitoring and Reporting Illness

The Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Public Education released [updated return guidance](#) to school districts that directs that COVID-19 be addressed as other childhood illnesses are.

- It is very important for parents/guardians to monitor their child's health. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, the child(ren) is required to stay home from school.
- Students who exhibit any signs of illness will be evaluated by school personnel and may be sent home in accordance with a typical illness.
- Symptoms such as sore throat, rash, vomiting and diarrhea should be discussed with your healthcare provider.
- If your child is absent from school, please be sure to contact the appropriate school office to report the absence.
- Contact the school nurse to report a positive COVID-19 case and/or any potential exposure your child may have had to a positive COVID-19 case.
- Clarke CSD Staff will not conduct contact tracing this year.
- Students and staff who receive a positive Covid-19 test result will adhere to the following quarantine requirements:

- a. Self-quarantine until all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. They have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication
 - ii. Their symptoms have improved
 - iii. They have quarantined for 10 days following the onset of symptomsOR
- b. Self-quarantine until all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. They have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication
 - ii. Their symptoms have improved
 - iii. They have received an alternate diagnosis from a health care providerOR
- c. Self-quarantine until all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. They have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication
 - ii. Their symptoms have improved
 - iii. They tested for Covid-19 at least 5 days since the symptoms began
 - iv. Their Covid-19 test returned a negative result
 - v. They have quarantined for 7 days following the onset of symptoms
 - vi. They may come out of quarantine as long as they continue to wear a mask and social distance for an additional 3 daysOR
- d. If an Essential Worker:
 - i. They have received 2 negative Covid-19 tests more than 24 hours apart
 - ii. They have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication
 - iii. Their symptoms have improved
 - iv. At least 72 hours have passed since their symptoms began
 - Those who have been exposed to a person with a positive Covid-19 test result will not be required to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic.
 - The Iowa Department of Public Health is following the influenza surveillance model and does not plan to issue quarantine or isolation orders at this time.

Face Masks

In accordance with House File 847, passed during the 2021 Legislative Session, local schools and school boards no longer have the authority to require students, staff or visitors to wear a face covering to school. This includes during the school day, as well as at school events, athletic activities, practices, camps, etc, and on buses. It is important to note that the use of masks or other face coverings is currently welcomed in schools for students, staff, families and visitors to school. Students and staff that choose to wear masks will be supported in their choice. According to the CDC, masks have been found helpful in reducing exposure to or spreading illness.

Positivity rates will be monitored for individual classrooms and buildings, the District overall, the community of Osceola and Clarke County. If 10% of students and/or staff are absent due to COVID-19 or other identified childhood illnesses, the District will contact Clarke County Public Health and implement mitigation strategies. These strategies may include, but are not limited to shifting to another instructional delivery model that could be applied to a specific classroom or building, depending on the situation.

The United States Centers for Disease Control does provide Guidance for [COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) that parents and staff are encouraged to be aware of and consider.

We look forward to your continued support and partnership and to a successful school year.

With INDIAN PRIDE!

Sincerely,

Alan Dykens
Superintendent

Jody Kerchal
Elementary Principal

Alisha Evans
Middle School Principal

Shane Stephens
High School Principal

Please note COVID-19 information is subject to change at any time throughout the school year. Any changes in our COVID-19 plans, procedures or policies will be communicated to staff and families in a timely manner and through our regular channels of communication, such as the Clarke App and the District website.