

ROADRUNNER PRIDE
INTERSTATE 35
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 20, 2021

RE: COVID protocol updates

Dear Families, Parents, Guardians, Patrons,

The school year is off to a great start and we are so thankful that we have the privilege of working with your students. We did want to update parents on our most recent guidance and continue to ask for your support.

SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS We will **continue** to follow our **health and safety guidelines and protocols**.

1. Masks will be optional.
2. We encourage families to keep students home if they are sick with symptoms.
3. We will continue to stress good hygiene.
4. We will continue to practice social distancing when possible.
5. We will continue to have additional sanitation of high touch surfaces.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE GUIDELINES As a reminder, here are the isolation and quarantine guidelines around COVID-19. When a **student or staff member tests positive**, they will adhere to the following isolation guidelines:

- The 10 day count for isolation begins on the day of a positive test result or when symptoms begin.
- The COVID positive student/staff member can return when **all** of the following criteria are met
 - They have quarantined for 10 days following the onset of symptoms.
 - Their symptoms have improved.
 - They have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

If a family member tests positive, it is best practice (but not required) for other family members in the household to self-isolate. The self-isolation guidelines are five days (following a negative test) if the family member is able to stay away from the positive person or ten days if the family member is not able to isolate from the positive family member.

COMMUNICATION We have fielded several questions about communicating COVID exposure in the building. To protect the privacy of our students, we do not report COVID positive cases if there are fewer than six (6)--we used this same practice last year. To date, we have not had a

week where we have logged more than six (6) positive cases. However, our Daycare follows different guidelines for licensure. The three-year-old daycare and our Before/After School Programs are required to post anytime there is a communicable disease in the center. In May, the Iowa Department of Public Health listed COVID on the communicable disease chart. Parents in the daycare will receive an email for any communicable diseases throughout the year (including COVID). While we understand this can be confusing and, sometimes, frustrating, we are working hard to keep our students and staff as safe as possible, while still protecting privacy.

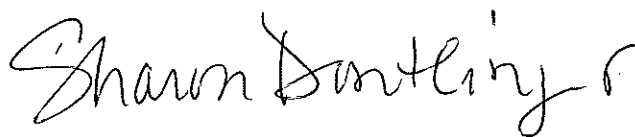
PK-12 will continue to use the same guidelines that we have used in the past for communicable diseases. Staff and teachers will provide information to families verbally and in writing about any **unusual** level or type of communicable disease to which their child was exposed, signs and symptoms of the disease, mode of transmission, period of communicability, and control measures that are being implemented at the program and that the families should implement at home.

FUTURE GUIDELINES In trying to navigate through this pandemic, we are considering our school data. Our data shows our current approach to be working in keeping our numbers low. However, we may need to increase our mitigation measures if our data changes. We will work with Madison County Public Health with any recommendations presented to the Board.

My first concern is the health and safety of our students and staff. My second concern is providing opportunities for high quality instruction. While I understand a change to our current guidelines would not be ideal, it may be necessary to make recommendations to the Board in the future to keep our students and staff as safe as possible and to provide the opportunity for high quality instruction.

If you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact me at sdentlinger@i-35.k12.ia.us or call me at 641-765-4291.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Dentlinger".

Sharon Dentlinger
Superintendent