

COVID Protocol 2021-22

Dear Highland Families,

As we all know, guidance surrounding COVID is continually being updated. Below is an outline of our latest protocols for the 2021-2022 school year. With your help and patience, I believe we can have another successful school year here in Highland.

Please note that protocols are subject to change depending on circumstances within our school, community, and county.

Bussing

- WARCO, our bus company, requires masks while on the bus. This applies to all, even those who are vaccinated, per CDC.
- There will be no additional routes this school year. We will run our standard routes as we did previous to COVID.
- Assigned seats will remain in place.

Masks

- Masks will be recommended but not required indoors.
- Masks are not required outdoors.
- Masks are required on school busses/school van.
- Masks will be required indoors if we reach a threshold of four active cases at any time in our MS/HS.
- Masks will be required indoors if we reach a threshold of four active cases at any time in our elementary school.
- If our threshold is met, masks will be worn while indoors until there are no additional active cases and all of the students return from quarantine.
- If a threshold is met at any particular time during a school day, our mask requirement will begin the following day.
- Please note that at any time, our state or local health department could mandate masks for schools.

Social Distancing

- Social distancing will be three feet when practical.

Sanitization & Student Hygiene

- Sanitization practices will continue.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and hallway.
- Desks and other work surfaces will be sanitized regularly.
- Students will be reminded to practice good hygiene on a daily basis such as handwashing, covering coughs appropriately, and not sharing food or drinks.
- Each student will be asked to have a fresh clean mask available if and when needed.

Quarantining

- Students who show two or more symptoms will be sent home and encouraged to get a COVID test. If a parent chooses to opt out of a COVID test, an alternate diagnosis from a MD will again be accepted. If neither are an option, the student (and siblings) will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

- Siblings of students who have two or more symptoms will be sent home until results of a COVID test are in.
- Area clinics will now be offering a rapid test to assist students in returning to school sooner.
- Fully vaccinated students will not be quarantined if they are identified as a close contact as long as they don't show any symptoms. This includes sports and other activities.

Shortened Quarantine Option For Close Contacts (Excluding Household Members)

- If no symptoms develop, a student can return to school after day 10 without a COVID test, as long as they monitor symptoms for 14 days.
- If no symptoms develop, a student can return to school after day 7 with a negative COVID test on day 6 or 7.

Parent Notification for COVID Quarantining

- Parents will be notified by the school district if their child is identified as a close contact.
- The Iowa County Health Department will notify the families of any positive cases.

Cardinal Club

- Cardinal Club will be available this year starting at 7:00 A.M. and after school until 5:00 P.M. Fees for Cardinal Club will be \$2.00 for the morning and \$4.00 after school.

Visitors

- We encourage parents to not enter the building unless absolutely necessary.
- If we reach the threshold for masking, visitors in the building may be limited.
- There is currently no fan limit at sporting events; however, this may be subject to change pending WIAA guidelines or updated COVID protocols.

Virtual Learning

- For any families that choose to have their child(ren) go virtual, please contact the school district to discuss options.
- Our teaching staff will not be providing virtual instruction for those families who choose this option.

Please remember to keep your child(ren) home if anyone in the household is not feeling well or showing COVID symptoms. If a member of the household is being tested, keep everyone in the household home until COVID test results are back. We realize this is an inconvenience for families, but we did find our leading cause of exposure was due to kids being at school when others in the home were symptomatic.

Please know that we are working with our county health officials to do our best to keep students in school while looking out for everyone's well being. We believe these protocols help us balance the educational, physical, emotional, and safety needs of our students and staff while continuing to provide a quality education.

Thank you,

Josh Tarrell
District Principal