

# North Linn Return To Learn Plan

## Fall 2021

Revised 8.18.21; 2.16.22; 9.20.23



This is the current Return To Learn Plan for the North Linn School District. We continue to receive guidance from the Iowa Department of Education, Linn County Health and the Grant Wood Area Education Agency. Our priority is to keep students and staff safe and in school so that we may continue to the best education possible for our students. We will need everyone to do their part to help our entire school community safe. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund requires school districts to review and/or update their Return-to-Learn Plan every six months until September 2023. This document serves as the required final update for the North Linn Community School District as of September 20, 2023.

## **Face Coverings**

Iowa Governor Reynolds signed HF 847 on May 20, 2021 which prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property. As such, masks will be optional for students, teachers, and visitors. We will support students in our school whether they choose to wear masks or not.

## **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

Our efforts will include but not be limited to the following:

- We will clean desks as often as possible.
- We will have hand sanitizer in each classroom and spread throughout the building.

## **Transportation**

- The CDC recommends wearing masks on buses and in classrooms. We are not mandating either of these recommendations and are leaving these decisions with families to decide. We will support whatever families decide and have masks available for your children if you are interested. We will change this guidance if we are legally required to do so.

## **Health Considerations**

- Vaccinations and proof of vaccinations are not required for employees, students, or the public.
- It is important for parents to screen their children before they come to school and keep them home if they are displaying symptoms of any illness. See the attached document called "[Child Illness and Exclusion Criteria for Education and Childcare Settings](#)".
- Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) will not issue isolation and quarantine orders for COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 exposed individuals. IDPH states, "If a case of COVID-19 is identified at school, exposed students and teachers can be advised to consider staying home in accordance with public health best practices to monitor for symptoms. If a student or teacher becomes symptomatic, they should stay home while ill and consider getting tested."

- **Staying Home from School**

**COVID-19 Positive:**

Students who are exhibiting COVID symptoms, are awaiting COVID test results, or are diagnosed positive should notify the school nurse and/or health assistant immediately. Students and staff members waiting on results from a COVID-19 test should remain home until the results are received to assist in limiting exposure to healthy individuals.

- **Symptomatic:** Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 and are exhibiting symptoms will be required to self-isolate at home for 5 days since their symptoms first appeared (Day 0). If they were severely ill with COVID-19, they should isolate for the full 10 days and consult their doctor before ending isolation. •
- **Asymptomatic:** Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 but are not exhibiting symptoms will be required to self-isolate until 5 days have passed since the date of their positive test. If they develop symptoms after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period will start over with Day 0 being the first day that symptoms developed.

**Students and Staff Members Returning to School After COVID-19 Positive:**

Students and staff members who are fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and have improved COVID-19 symptoms (Loss of taste and/or smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and do not need to delay the end of isolation) may either: A) Stay home for the full 10-day period, OR B) Return to school on Day 6 and wear a well-fitted mask upon return for the full 10-day period.

**In-Person Learning**

- We will have in-person learning this year for all students. We will not be providing an online option unless we have students who need this option for medical reasons. These arrangements must be made on a case-by-case basis. We will support students who must have an extended absence with an online option so they can receive instruction from their teachers on a daily basis.

**School lunch**

Students will eat lunch and breakfast in the school cafeterias. If school is not able to be held in-person, grab and go meals will be provided.

### **Continuity of Services**

If school is interrupted due to challenges resulting from COVID-19, the district will continue to provide educational services to ensure that student learning continues in a safe manner. Any decisions regarding the potential interruption of school services will be made in accordance with the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Linn County Public Health.

- Academics – If COVID reaches a point that school cannot be held in-person, the district will move to a fully online model of learning. Students will access learning through their school-assigned devices.
- Social/Emotional Health – Students will continue to have access to school counselors and at-risk support staff, in addition to classroom teachers.
- Nutrition Services – If school is not able to be held in-person, designated meal pickup locations will be available for families to access.