

Linn County R-1 RE-ENTRY PLAN

As we return for the 2020-2021 school year, the Linn County R-1 District will work to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for students and staff. However, attending school will inherently introduce a greater risk of exposure in spite of our best efforts. Our plan for returning to school has been built around the following foundational priorities: cleaning and disinfecting, physical distancing, staff and student screening, procedures for COVID-19, and miscellaneous questions/answers.

ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS OF DISEASE CONTROL

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices such as handwashing, staying home when sick and environmental cleaning and disinfecting are important principles for everyone to put into practice.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- During school hours, custodians will thoroughly cover high touch surfaces throughout the building on an ongoing rotation throughout the day, including bathrooms, water bottle fill stations, doorknobs, entrance/exit handles, handrails, walls, etc
- At a minimum, classrooms and other common spaces will be cleaned and disinfected any time a new group of students accesses a new area
- Cleaning materials and hand sanitizing materials will be available in classrooms, commonly used areas and at the entrances and exits of all buildings. Staff and students will be expected to support cleaning and disinfecting of classroom surfaces and supplies as needed
- Students and staff will have time throughout the day to wash/sanitize hands and supplies
- Drinking fountains will be turned off, but refillable water bottle stations can be used for individual drinking containers
- Bus drivers will have sanitation training and all school buses will be thoroughly sanitized before and after each route.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- We will take steps to promote physical distancing, although we cannot keep everyone six feet apart. This could look different at each classroom, due to the difference in the spaces, and it could include:
 - Staggering the use of common spaces, including the cafeteria, playground and other areas
 - Rearranging furniture and equipment to move students farther apart
 - Spreading out at lunch and recess
 - Allowing for social distancing in the halls during passing periods
 - Changing arrival and dismissal procedures
- Teachers and students will not be required to wear a mask, but it is recommended
- During this time, the only visitors we can allow in our schools are people who are there to work, like substitute teachers, outsourced student service workers, repair workers.
- If you need to bring something to the school or pick someone up, you will need to call ahead and then wait outside the front entry door until we can help you. We will work with families when we need to have meetings for students.

FAMILIES AND PARENTS

STUDENTS MUST STAY HOME IF THEY ARE FEELING ILL OR SHOWING ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19.

People with COVID-19 have reported having a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all inclusive. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2020).

- Supply your student with a small hand sanitizer and a mask
- Remind students about social distancing practices
- Reinforce proper hand washing practices

Screening Process and Protocols for Symptomatic Individuals

- Students should be screened at home before coming to school
- Please ask yourself and your student the following questions every morning before school
 - Does your student feel sick today?
 - Do they have a temperature/fever over 100.0?
 - Do they have a consistent cough?
 - Do they have shortness of breath?
 - Have they been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 in the last 2 weeks?
- If the answer to any of these questions is yes, students will be required to be kept home
- **Linn Co. R-1 will not be taking students temperatures upon arrival**
- If a student is deemed to be symptomatic a family member will be asked to pick up the student within 30 minutes of notification
- Students will be in a safe space to limit contact with other individuals until picked up
- School health professionals will provide guidance if students need to be seen by their medical professional for further examination
- When a family member arrives at school to pick up the student, please do not enter the building
- Staff will walk the student outside to meet the family member picking them up
- Students/Staff will not be allowed to return to school for 1 day (24 hours) or current CDC recommendations after a fever of 100.0 with no additional symptoms

PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19
 - Notification will be made to the Linn County Health Department (LCHD)
 - Linn County will conduct contact tracing to identify possible exposure to others
 - Linn Co. R-1 will follow recommendations for closure and contact tracing performed by Linn County Health Department
 - A notification will be sent to all families in the district
 - School(s) could possibly close for several days
 - Staff will perform a deep targeted clean and disinfection of exposed areas
 - Work with Linn County Health Department on reopening and reentry plans

- Students/Staff returning to school from COVID-19 like symptoms
 - **Persons with symptoms**
 - At least 1 day without **any** symptoms **and** at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared (or current CDC recommendations) **and** 24 hours since last fever with no fever reducing medications **and** symptoms have improved. Students/staff may return after 24 hours **if accompanied by a doctor's note** stating they may return.
 - Students/staff must be fever free for **72 hours** without the use of fever reducing medications **if not accompanied by a doctor's note**. Fever reducing medications include Tylenol, Acetaminophen, Motrin, Ibuprofen, etc.
 - The school personnel will use their best judgement to evaluate the students' symptoms. If a student/staff member's fever does not reach the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendation of 100.4 F, the nurse might still send the student/staff member home after considering all symptoms.
 - Students and adults who have come into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 should closely monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms and should follow all instructions given by the local health department related to contact tracing.

- Students/Staff with close contact/potential exposure with no symptoms
 - Quarantine 14 days.
 - May return to school/work on day 15 as long as no symptoms developed during 14 day quarantine and no positive test result obtained

ACADEMIC OPTIONS

DURING COVID-19

We have found that most families want their children to come back in person, but some prefer an online option because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have questions or need help, call us at 660-244-5035.

You must sign up for the online option by **Tuesday, August 18** to allow us time to plan for staffing and class enrollments. If we do not hear from you by August 18, we will plan for your child to attend school in person.

This plan is subject to change as more information becomes available and as we continue to follow the latest guidance of public health officials. We will notify you if we update our plan.

RETURN TO LEARN OPTIONS

In Person Learning:

Students who choose this option will return to their school in the fall, taking health and safety precautions. If you want your child to attend in person, you do not need to do anything. If we need to close down a classroom, a school or the entire district because of a COVID-19 outbreak, our in-person students and teachers will move together to Distance Learning.

We have been hard at work this summer to improve this plan based on the feedback we received from students, teachers and families, to make it better than the Distance Learning program we used when we shut down in the spring. We would also use Distance Learning if we needed to shut down our in-person schools for a snow day (the state gives us this option for snow days). The following structures will be followed for in person learning:

- Maintain a regular school day schedule Tuesday through Friday
- Teachers will utilize Google Classroom, Class Dojo, ThinkCentral, etc., to eliminate the transfer of paper assignments
- Students with special needs will be provided enhanced protection through additional space and customized schedules for learning
- Lunch will be offered in the lunchroom and can be held in classrooms when needed. Lunch shifts will be modified to minimize the number of students in the lunchroom.

SAFETY AND PROTOCOLS FOR FACE-FACE LEARNING

- Enhanced safety measures for all buildings will be put in place. Students, staff, and school employees will be the only people allowed to enter Linn County R-1 buildings during the school day. Parents, community members and other visitors will not be allowed inside the buildings with the exception of substitutes, outsourced student service workers, repair workers
- Social distancing will be in place when appropriate
- Masks will be optional for all staff and students, but recommended when social distancing is not possible
- Students will NOT be restricted to one area per day. Students will spread out when in line
- Students will have assigned seats in any area they are seated. Classroom desks will be spread out using as much room as possible
- Students will NEED a water bottle. Water fountains will be turned off
- Hand sanitizer will be available
- Students will go to recess and have Art, Music, Library and PE

Online Learning:

Students who choose not to return in person will use our Linn County Online option. This is an online-only option we are offering during the COVID-19 pandemic for students from across the Linn County R-1 School District. It could include an online educational platform or be both direct teacher instruction and independent student work, with a combination of virtual one-on-one meetings, virtual group meetings, live class sessions and pre-recorded videos. These students will not be on campus during the school day for activities like celebrations or participation in athletic events.

- Students will be considered full time Linn County R-1 students and will follow a “school schedule” Tuesday-Friday
- Parents and students will receive technology support as needed. Additional instructional materials will be provided as needed to accommodate learning from home
- Students will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities
- Students will be committed to online learning for an entire semester (August – December)

LINN COUNTY R-1 RETURN TO SCHOOL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How will the school day look?

- The building will not open until 7:30 am daily. We must ensure that we have appropriate student supervision as students arrive.
- Students will enter the building and sanitize hands.
- Students will be physically distanced at breakfast.
- If your child does not eat breakfast, elementary students will go straight to their classroom and 6-12 will go to their first hour class
- Elementary students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria and MS/HS students will eat breakfast in room 1
- Students will eat in the lunchroom! We feel time out of the classroom and in a structured social environment is very important for our students. We will allow for physical distancing.
- Students are encouraged to bring clear water bottles. Water fountains will be shut off but the bottle fillers will be on.

Will my child be able to ride the school bus?

- Yes! Students will have assigned seats on the bus. It will be mandatory for parents to select a consistent location for morning and afternoon transportation pick-up and drop-off locations. Last minute changes could be difficult to accommodate.
- As much as possible, students will be seated with space between riders. Family members will have assigned seats together.

Will my child still be able to go to the playground for recess and spend time outside?

- Yes! Students will go to recess and have physical time with friends.
- Teachers will review good physical distancing play practices with students at the beginning of the school year.
- Students will use hand sanitizer prior to going to the playground and will wash hands when returning to the classroom.

Will my child have art, music, physical education and other resource classes?

- Yes! It's important for students to have access to fine arts and physical education.
- Class activities and routines may be a little different, but we will follow a regular schedule of resource classes daily.
- As students move from one classroom to another, teachers will sanitize equipment, tables, etc. between each class.

Will we still have class parties for birthdays and holidays?

- Yes! Classroom teachers will host holiday parties with the help of our resource teachers as well.
- To start the year, we will not allow parents to attend class parties. We will have a sign-up to invite parents to send store bought treats and items for classroom games.
- Birthday treats will be allowed and must be store bought. Parents will not be allowed to visit classrooms to disseminate birthday treats.

What about perfect attendance incentives?

- Based on recommendation from the state and local officials, we will NOT have perfect attendance incentives for the regular school year.

Will my student be issued a locker?

- Yes, students will be using lockers
- Students will be allowed to carry backpacks into rooms to help minimize the usage of lockers

Will masks be required for students and staff?

- Teachers and students will not be required to wear a mask, but it will be recommended.

Will my student attend Vo-Tech?

- Yes, students will attend Vo-Tech and follow the safety protocols put in place by the attending school district.