



## Questions & Answers

### Return-to-Learn Plan

#### On-campus and virtual learning

##### **What educational options are ISD offering this year because of COVID?**

The ISD Return to Learn plan provides for instruction in two settings for all students:

- On-site, classroom-based when the health and safety of students and staff can be reasonably assured.
- At home, remote learning when the school and/or dormitories must be closed in compliance with county and state health or Board of Regents directives.

All students are expected back on campus in the classroom. The dormitories will be open. We will continue to follow the traditional school calendar. Because we are a small school, ISD can maintain a safe learning and living environment while meeting the needs of all of our students on campus at the same time.

**What does “virtual school” mean?** For the purpose of this document, “virtual learning” means instruction in which the student and instructor are in different locations all of the time. Virtual learning could include on-line instruction, printed instructional materials, phone calls, emails, text reminders, video conferencing and/or other means of communication. If ISD must close and school is delivered virtually, your student will engage in all of their learning in this manner, with coursework provided remotely by ISD staff.

**Why would ISD move from on-campus to virtual learning?** ISD administrators are in close contact with the county department of public health, Iowa Department of Education and the Board of Regents to determine what environment is safest for students and staff, based on current conditions of COVID19 in the Council Bluffs community and across the state.

**How will virtual learning be different between spring, 2020 and the ‘20/’21 year?** If ISD needs to close, virtual learning this fall will be required, which means there will be curricula your student will need to complete in order to get credit for coursework. ISD faculty will teach live classes remotely, give assignments and expect class participation. ISD faculty will support students as needed by providing additional opportunities for students to connect with teachers in 1:1 settings.

**How will virtual instruction be delivered to my child if school is closed?** Methods for online instruction will include applications such as Seesaw or Google Classroom, printed instructional materials, phone calls, emails, text reminders, video conferencing through Zoom and/or other means of communication.

**How will concerns about students' social/emotional and behavioral health (SEBH) be addressed?** Staff will receive training to help them be more aware of the social and emotional needs of students during the pandemic. Activities to address social/emotional and behavioral needs will be posted via virtual learning, such as Google Classroom or Flipboard. For small groups or 1:1, counseling sessions can be held using FaceTime or Zoom. Every student at ISD will be assigned a staff member for routine contacts and to increase communication opportunities. A referral process will be in place to efficiently provide access to the counselors.

**What if my child is at high risk due to underlying health conditions or a family member or caregiver in the home is at high risk and my child cannot come back to campus?** Please contact the Principal, Rebecca Gaw, so we can set up an IEP team meeting to discuss FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) for your child.

**How will IEP meetings be held?** The first 2-3 weeks of school will be focused on assessing students to gather information for IEP meetings. ISD staff will be calling meetings within the first 3-4 weeks of school to address virtual learning in case of school closure. All IEPs will take place through Zoom.

**How will on-campus instruction be different this fall?** Prior to school starting, the education staff will receive training to support the social/emotional behavioral health (SEBH) of our students during a pandemic crisis and how to implement SEBH activities during on-campus or virtual classes. Staff will also receive training to keeping students safe utilizing the newly implemented health and safety protocols for campus

Within the first few weeks of school we will be working with students to explain what 'virtual school' will look like if ISD closes. We will ensure students have the skills to access learning at home through ISD technology and learning platforms such as Seesaw, Google Classroom and Zoom.

The school return-to-learn plan has considered guidance and recommendations from the Center on Disease Control and local public health to develop procedures designed to limit the spread of the Covid virus between individuals. Procedures take into consideration: daily health assessments, physical distancing, limiting the size of groups and gatherings, use of face masks and hygiene/cleaning/sanitizing. The procedures are designed to meet the needs of all our students. Food service and health center departments also have procedures in place.

**SCHOOLS link to health center protocol during COVID-19 is here:**

[Health Center Protocol - Schools](#)

## **What are the new safety measures for the dorm?**

The dormitory protocols were based on recommendations from the CDC, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health and the *Journal of American Pediatrics*. These procedures address physical distancing, group gatherings, field trips, health center visits, treatment of minor injuries, face masks, confidentiality/privacy and monitoring students' health.

**DORMITORY link to health center protocol during COVID-19 is here:**

[Health Center Protocol - Dormitory](#)

## **Will students still use ISD transportation?**

Yes, ISD will provide local and statewide transportation with new guidelines in place. Procedures take into consideration for transportation address both local students and residential students who are transported home each weekend. Protocols include face masks for drivers, chaperones and students, maintaining physical distancing, pick-up point assessments such as temperature readings and responses to health-related questions and disinfecting high-touch areas in the vans and buses.

**Transportation link to health center protocol during COVID-19 is here:**

[Health Center Protocol - Transportation](#)

## **How will the school deal with students who become ill, students, or staff who have been exposed to, or have contracted COVID-19?**

This protocol outlines symptoms of COVID-19 and explains how the virus spreads. Assessment of healthy and ill students will be in separate areas in the health center. Both a symptom-based strategy and a test-based strategy provide guidance for students and staff ready to return to campus after recovering from the virus. Both residential and local students will have their temperatures taken daily before being admitted to classes.

**Staff/Student Illness link to health center protocol during COVID-19 is here:**

[Health Center Protocol - Student/Staff Illness](#)

## **Can I help my child avoid contracting COVID-19? What do I do if my child was near someone who later becomes ill? When should my child stay home?**

You can be assured that from the first night in the dormitories and the first day at school, students will be learning and practicing our new protocols. However, pre-teaching them and reminding them how to stay healthy at home helps support the learning and habits. These Questions & Answers explain the terms ISD uses relating COVID-19, when your child should stay home, what to do if your child may have been exposed to someone who is ill and more.

**ISD parent guide to possible exposure and more document is here:**

[Health Center Protocol - Q & A](#)