

# RETURN TO LEARN

Reopening Iowa's Schools Safely and Responsibly

## COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION: NONE TO MINIMAL

0-5% positivity in county on average over the past 14 days

\* Healthcare resources remain stable

### SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

- Stay home if you are sick or exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19
- Practice frequent hand-washing
- Stay 6 feet from others as much as possible
- Use face coverings when able to do so safely and correctly
- Maintain frequent cleaning schedule using EPA-approved cleaning products
- Monitor absenteeism among teachers, staff, and students

### RETURN-TO-LEARN MODEL(S)

On-Site Learning following DOE, IDPH and CDC guidance.

Hybrid Learning as necessary based on:

- Parent or guardian preference
- Student quarantine

## COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION: MINIMAL TO MODERATE

6-14% positivity in a county on average over the past 14 days

\* Healthcare resources remain stable

### SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

- Continue above strategies
- Reduce group events/gatherings
- Limit inter-school interactions
- Ensure student and staff groupings/cohorts are as static as possible and that interactions among groups of students and staff are limited

### RETURN-TO-LEARN MODEL(S)

On-Site Learning following DOE, IDPH and CDC guidance.

Hybrid Learning as necessary based on:

- Parent or guardian preference
- Student quarantine

## COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION: SUBSTANTIAL CONTROLLED

15-20% positivity in a county on average over the past 14 days AND 10% absenteeism among students expected for in-person learning

\* Healthcare resources remain stable

### SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

- Continue above strategies
- Consider regular health checks for any on-site students/staff if feasible
- Cancel school events/gatherings
- Close communal spaces (e.g., cafeterias, media centers)

### RETURN-TO-LEARN MODEL(S)

Hybrid Learning as necessary based on:

- Parent or guardian preference
- Student quarantine

Temporary Continuous/Remote Learning for an entire school building or district for up to 14 days may be requested:

- Please contact the Department of Education by submitting your information via the CASA system.
- Only the Departments of Education and Public Health can make the determination and provide temporary authorization to move to 100% online or remote learning.

## COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION: SUBSTANTIAL UNCONTROLLED

>20% positivity in a county on average over the past 14 days with healthcare resource capacity concerns

### SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

State and local education and public health officials should work closely together to make decisions on school operations.

### RETURN-TO-LEARN MODEL(S)

Temporary Continuous/Remote Learning for an entire school building or district for up to 14 days may be requested:

- Please contact the Department of Education by submitting your information via the CASA system.
- Only the Departments of Education and Public Health can make the determination and provide temporary authorization to move to 100% online or remote learning.





# EVALUATING SICK STUDENTS AND STAFF

## Reopening Iowa's Schools Safely and Responsibly

### HIGH RISK SYMPTOMS

New cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell

### LOW RISK SYMPTOMS

Fever, headache, muscle and body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Students and staff members should remain home when sick. Students or staff members with any high-risk symptom or two or more low risk symptoms should stay home and are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider.

### EVALUATION BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

#### NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST

Return to school after 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) and symptoms improving

#### ALTERNATIVE DIAGNOSIS

#### POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

Return to school after 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) and symptoms improving and 10 days since symptoms started

### IDENTIFYING CLOSE CONTACTS FOR COVID-19 CASES

Close Contact: Individuals who've been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes with a positive COVID-19 case during the infectious period. Contact may occur in a classroom, lunchroom, free period, during transportation to or from school, at practices or games, and during extracurricular activities.

#### SCHOOL WILL:

- Notify local public health department
- Identify close contacts and quarantine exposed students and staff
- Notify appropriate school administration, families and staff (without identifying the COVID-19 case)
- Provide Public Health with list of close contacts

#### PUBLIC HEALTH WILL:

- Recommend quarantine for all household contacts of COVID-19 case
- Work with school to determine which students and staff should be quarantined

#### STUDENTS

- If no symptoms develop, students can return to school 14 days from their last contact with the COVID-19 case
- If symptoms develop, students should be evaluated by a health care provider
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they should isolate for 10 days
- If a student tests negative for COVID-19, they must still complete their 14-day quarantine before returning to school

#### STAFF

- Staff may be considered critical personnel and can be allowed to return to work if there are staffing shortages as long as they remain asymptomatic
- Staff should take their temperature and screen for symptoms at the start and end of each day, and wear a mask at work
- If symptoms develop, they must isolate immediately

#### INDIVIDUALS PREVIOUSLY POSITIVE

- Those who have been previously diagnosed positive for COVID-19 within the past 12 weeks, and were exposed to a COVID-19 case, do not need to quarantine

