



WEBSTER CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Return to Learn Protocols for 2021-22

Updated 8/27/21

Webster City Community School District is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff as we work to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. The District will continue to work with Hamilton County Public Health as part of our planning and implementation.

As the new school year begins, the District will only offer in-person instruction. However, as situations arise, we will re-evaluate and adjust. This allows us to better address the academic, as well as social-emotional needs of our students.

The District will continue to support the health and well-being of our students and staff by following these mitigation practices:

FACE MASKS

Iowa House File 847 prohibits school districts from requiring students and staff to wear masks in classrooms and buildings. Because we value the health and safety of our students and staff, we strongly encourage and support students and staff members to choose to wear face coverings whenever possible. Masks will be available and supported throughout the buildings.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We continue to practice social distancing in our schools as much as practicable.

SEATING CHARTS

Due to the changing nature of the pandemic, seating charts will be required for each class.

ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS

Currently, the Webster City Schools are not offering online learning options. However, accommodations will be made when a student is out for extended periods due to illness, including testing positive for COVID-19 or being quarantined for exposure.

TRANSPORTATION

Buses will have disposable masks and hand sanitizer available for students and drivers. Like last year, buses will be regularly disinfected and windows and vents will be opened whenever possible to allow for air circulation.

MEALS

School breakfast and lunch will be free to all students this year due to federal funding. Social distancing will be encouraged in our lunchrooms. Students are also encouraged to bring their own clear water bottles and fill them at each school's water bottle filling stations.

HAND HYGIENE

Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer, which is available throughout the school, is encouraged throughout the day.

CLEANING

Custodial staff will continue to implement electrostatic cleaning practices in each school and classroom, as we did last year, to limit the spread of germs and viruses.

ACTIVITIES

Student athletics and activities will return to normal operation with no limitations on spectators at this time.

VISITORS IN SCHOOLS

Visitors will be permitted on a limited basis and subject to approval by building principals. All parents, visitors, and volunteers must check-in at the school office.

SICKNESS AND POSITIVE COVID CASES

In general, students and staff should stay home from school or school activities when they are sick. We will emphasize this again as we continue to use best practices in our fight against COVID-19.

Before a student or staff member is allowed to return to school, he or she needs to be:

- free of fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication;
- has not been vomiting or had diarrhea for at least 24 hours, and
- has no other symptoms.

COVID VARIANT

Symptoms of the current COVID variant frequently have symptoms that are much like sinus infections, which includes headaches, sinus pressure or stuffy nose. We will also encourage staff and students to stay home when they have the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, headache, muscle or joint aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever (100 degrees or more) or chills.

School staff will not be administering Tylenol or similar medications for these symptoms, and we ask that students and staff not take Tylenol or similar medications for these symptoms before coming to school.

(If the student or staff member has a chronic condition that exhibits these symptoms, a doctor's note will be required to verify the symptoms exhibited are associated with the diagnosed condition.)

POSITIVE COVID CASES

In accordance with Iowa Department of Public Health guidance, students and staff who have tested positive (regardless if they are vaccinated or unvaccinated) for COVID-19 should stay home for 10 days from the time symptoms first appeared. They may return to school after that time if they are symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications AND no longer have other symptoms of COVID-19 except for loss of taste and smell, which may persist for weeks or months.

Based on current guidance, we do not anticipate that we will require students and staff to quarantine when they have been exposed to positive COVID cases this year. However, our school nurses will recommend best practices to keep students, staff, and their families safe when there has been school exposure or they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

CONTACT TRACING

Parents will be notified if a positive case occurs in their child's grade level.