



# School Information and Updates

## Friday, September 18, 2020

### **FULL ONSITE LEARNING STARTS SEPTEMBER 22 (PK-6th Students)**

Based on numbers and current absenteeism in our buildings, we will transition to full on-site instruction for all students in grades PK-6th starting Tuesday, September 22, as planned. Grades 7-12 students will continue with the hybrid model through October 9. A decision to move to full on-site instruction or continue in the Hybrid Model for the week starting October 12 will be made by October 2.

### **COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING PROTOCOLS (Student or Staff Tests Positive)**

When school officials are made aware of students or staff testing positive for COVID-19, they begin the process of “contact tracing” to determine who should quarantine and for how long. As shared in last week’s communication and again this week in the section below, people who were in “close contact” with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 may need to be quarantined from others for a period of 14 days. [Here](#) is additional information about quarantine and isolation.

A team that consists of district and building administrators, nurses, and other support staff meet immediately upon notification of the positive student or staff member. The team notifies public health of the positive individual as needed and begins the contact tracing process. The team considers the many different settings that the person testing positive would have been in before, during, and after school including, but not limited to: classrooms, common areas, cafeteria, transportation to and from school, and extracurricular activities.

Once the process of determining close contacts is complete, team members notify the close contacts by phone, written letter, or both and also inform the parents of the school with a general notification letter. Staff members at the school receive a notification of the positive case via email from their principal. If they were determined to be in close contact with the individual who tested positive, they will receive additional instructions from the human resources department.

Public health officials will contact the family to determine close contacts that the individual testing positive would have had in their home and community.

### **QUARANTINE, ISOLATION, and CONTACT TRACING**

The situation with this pandemic has introduced us all to new vocabulary as we implement our processes to maintain health and safety. [This document](#) outlines the difference between *quarantine* and *isolation* and is a helpful reference for families to know what to do when a member of their household is ill or when a member of their household must quarantine.

ISOLATION occurs when:

**Your student has been diagnosed with COVID-19 OR**

**Your student is waiting for their test result OR**

**Your student has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested or exposed.**

QUARANTINE occurs when:

**Your student has been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-**

**19.** Exposure means that they were within six feet of the person who tested positive for more than 15 minutes, with or without face masks. (Many people ask “*If students will*

*have to quarantine with or without masks, then why do we require face masks to be worn?" This is because face masks reduce the risk that students will become infected with COVID-19 after they've been in close contact with someone who is positive.)*

It is important to remember that we require students and staff who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms to stay at home or to return home if they become ill during the school day. Parents must pick up their children within 30 minutes of being notified by the school that their child is ill. Contact tracing and quarantining will not occur, however, until there is a positive test result.

### **MASK UPDATE**

We continue to monitor the latest research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as we refine our procedures and expectations for face masks. According to the CDC, face masks with exhalation valves or vents allow virus particles to escape and are not as effective in preventing the spread of the illness. For this reason, we are asking students and staff to discontinue wearing these types of masks at school. We will continue to monitor the research from the CDC on other types of face coverings and issue additional guidance when it becomes available.

### **NUTRITIONAL SERVICES (Free Breakfast and Lunch)**

*Reminder:* College Community Schools have been approved by the state of Iowa and USDA to offer **free** breakfast and **free** lunch to all children age 18 years and under, from September 22, 2020 through December 31, 2020 or until funding runs out. Free meals will be available to **ALL** students and will also be available via curbside pickup for children age 18 years and under in the surrounding communities. You do not need to sign up or do anything in order for your student to participate in the program. If your student would like to purchase a la carte items such as a second milk or snack items, they will still need to have funds in their meal account. Families are still encouraged to complete the application for free and reduced price meals, if they feel that they may qualify for assistance. Completing the process now will aid in a smooth transition back to paid meals. The online application can be completed by visiting <https://family.titank12.com/> Click on Apply For Meals Today. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact Food and Nutrition by phone at 319-848-5337 or email [vsconfig@crprairie.org](mailto:vsconfig@crprairie.org)

**CHANGE IN PICK UP TIME:** Curbside breakfast and lunch meals will be available M-F from **10:30 AM- 11:30 AM** at Prairie Hill Elementary in the west staff parking lot drive thru lane.

USDA Nondiscrimination and Iowa Nondiscrimination statements can be found [here](#).

### **HOMEcoming GAME CHANGE (Game Moved to September 26)**

Due to the recent quarantine of Linn Mar's football team the date and times of our 2020 Homecoming football games have been changed. The game, originally scheduled for Friday, September 25, has moved to Saturday, September 26 with sophomores starting at 1 pm followed by the varsity at 3:15 pm. You can catch all the action by [clicking here](#) for the live stream link.

### **NO SCHOOL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 (Professional Learning Day)**

No school on Monday, September 21. Monday is a scheduled professional learning day.

### **SUBSTITUTE TEACHING OPPORTUNITY**

Our District is always looking for qualified substitute teachers to serve our students when our teachers need to be absent. With Governor Kim Reynolds' new [proclamation](#) as of July 17, 2020, there is now increased flexibility in the use of substitute teachers during the disaster emergency period.

This flexibility includes the degree requirement that is needed to obtain a substitute authorization. This has changed from a bachelor's degree to an associate's degree **or** 60 semester hours through a [regionally-accredited institution](#). In addition, completion of the

Substitute Authorization course is required. Here is the link to [register for the Substitute Authorization course](#).

Our Substitute Teachers are paid at the rate of \$15.50 an hour for any assignment over four (4) hours in length. In addition, a substitute whose assignment is up to and including four (4) hours will be paid at the rate of \$16.00 an hour.

As a Substitute Teacher, you will be able to indicate which schools you would prefer to substitute in whether this is your own students' school or for positions in all of our wonderful school buildings. You are also able to define which days you are available to substitute teach as well!

We truly hope you consider this amazing opportunity to serve in our schools as a substitute teacher. If you meet the new educational requirements and have completed the [substitute authorization course](#), please contact Grant Wood AEA to register as a Substitute Teacher with [SubCentral](#). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Jeri Moritz](#), Executive Director of HR.