



To: Prairie Families
From: Dr. Doug Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools
Date: October 2, 2020
Re: COVID Update and Learning Model Recommendations

Prairie Families:

Thank you for your continued support and understanding of the complexity of serving you and your students in this pandemic. Our staff remains dedicated to serving your students and our district remains committed to full onsite instruction for all students as the preferred learning model. We have followed our plans and have experienced great cooperation from you and our students. We are seeing many successes that simply could not be achieved for many students in an exclusively online environment. We are also finding our stride in our delivery of our Temporary Virtual Learning, which is currently serving 780 students (13% of District enrollment). While community opinions on the virus and schooling during the pandemic remain highly divergent, we could not have experienced this level of success for our onsite and TVL students without your support and trust. THANK YOU!

We would like to continue working towards clarity with decision-making related to onsite instruction. Our Return to Learn Plans have consistently communicated that we may need to utilize several strategies for learning this semester, knowing that some families will prefer one over the other. We have also been consistent in the message that a safe return to full onsite learning for all students has been and will continue to be the goal of our Return to Learn efforts.

- We will use the following sources in determining metrics:
 - PRIMARY
 - [Official State 14-day positivity Source Dashboard](#)
 - [CCSD State 14-day positivity trends - Linn - Johnson - Benton](#)
 - [CCSD Positive Case and Absenteeism Rates Document](#)
 - OTHER
 - [COVID-19 in Iowa](#)
 - [Linn County Public Health Dashboard](#)

Additionally, we have developed the following decision matrix to be fully transparent in the metrics and considerations we will use to determine the learning model we will use for onsite instruction.

[LINK to CCSD COVID-19 LEARNING MODEL METRICS/CONSIDERATIONS](#)

The Model Metrics/Considerations document is designed not only around metrics but also around operational considerations of the school district. Tier 1 and 2 are driven by the state metrics for approving a model change. As a district, we decided based on our factors to be more cautious than the state by establishing benchmarks. For example, 6-14% is a very big range and we want our families to be aware that we are not waiting until the high end of the threshold to start planning or making decisions. While the Tier 1 and Tier 2 indicators focus on metrics and guidance from the state, the Tier 3 considerations are highly local. For example, we may be well under the thresholds in Tier 1 and 2 and still be concerned for return to full onsite learning. Tier 3 takes into account the behavior of our students and community in mitigation efforts, the ability to staff our buildings for onsite learning, and the unique characteristics of our buildings and operations in College Community Schools.

PARENT SURVEY

We are also launching a follow-up parent survey so that you can share your feedback about Return to Learn now that we are five weeks into the school year and have shared our data related to COVID-19 in College Community Schools. This survey will close OCTOBER 12. In addition to parents and staff, we will also be surveying students in grades 7-12 to assess their experiences and thoughts. We are looking forward to adding this perspective to our considerations.

[LINK to FALL 2020 Return to Learn PARENT SURVEY](#)

Survey Closes October 12

Note: Parents in Temporary Virtual Learning will also be sent a survey related to their TVL experience.

Learning Model Update

OVERVIEW

On September 22nd, we welcomed our PK-6 students to full-time onsite instruction. Since that time, we have experienced great success in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 with all elementary students back onsite. Additionally, attendance rates for all types of illness have remained steady and are in line with absence rates seen in a typical school year for September. Our rates of positivity and quarantine through contact tracing continue to decrease, with many contacts happening outside of the school environment and reported by families. While some parts of Iowa are seeing increases in community spread, the counties of Linn, Johnson and Benton continue to decrease in 14-day positivity percentages and are at levels seen prior to the start of school.

Our students at all levels continue to be highly cooperative with the CDC key mitigation strategies and we are seeing low instances of isolation or quarantine. However, while we and other school districts in Iowa are experiencing high levels of success with full onsite delivery during the pandemic at the elementary level, we remain concerned for some factors impacting the secondary level. These factors are as follows:

- 1) Secondary buildings have higher enrollment
- 2) Secondary students come into contact with more students over the course of the day
- 3) Secondary students engage in more self-directed, unmonitored social engagement and interaction in and outside of school
- 4) Secondary students have a higher chance of interacting with students from other districts socially or through interscholastic athletics/fine arts
- 5) While positivity in the community and in our schools remains very low, we are seeing more positivity in this age group
- 6) Parent feedback during summer surveys indicated a greater level of success with online learning than parents of elementary-aged students

Additionally, the recent and unexpected announcement of new requirements for contact tracing creates an unknown variable.

Learning Model Plan

1. Regardless of announcements related to onsite instruction, students in Temporary Virtual Learning will remain in that program through the end of the semester.
2. Elementary (PK-6) will remain in full onsite learning for all students and we will continue to monitor established metrics and considerations weekly for any needed changes.
3. Secondary (7-12) - While Tier 1 and 2 considerations are within limits, Tier 3 considerations remain a concern for full onsite return of all secondary students.

The Hybrid model will be temporarily extended with a focus on phasing in a return of 7th and 8th grade students. During the school shut down in the spring, participation in school was voluntary for these students so we are prioritizing their return.

We will continue to monitor current positive trends in Tier 1 and 2 for any changes and consider stakeholder feedback for new surveys. The District remains committed to returning all students onsite. This extension allows for more monitoring and planning.

The plan is as follows:

Extend the 7-12 hybrid model for 2 weeks through October 23.

If Tier 1 and 2 conditions remain within the district established range or decrease and follow the established current trends, return 7th grade students to full onsite instruction October 27 (Tuesday). Grades 8-12 remain in hybrid

**any changes to this plan for 7th grade will be announced by October 19*

**see attached updated hybrid schedule for cohort days*

If Tier 1 and 2 conditions remain within the district established range or decrease and follow the established current trends, return 8th grade students to full onsite instruction November 2 (Monday), Grades 9-12 remain in hybrid.

**any changes to this plan for 8th grade will be announced by October 26*

**please see attached updated hybrid schedule for cohort days*

Grades 9-12 remain in hybrid until at least November 16

**any changes or extensions will be announced by November 9*

Here are additional precautions in place for 7th and 8th grade:

- 7th and 8th grade students are in teams, which allows for planned transitions to limit intermingling of students
- Point will continue separate building entry and exit points for different grades
- Passing time schedules will continue to be adjusted to minimize intermingling of students between teams
- Lunch schedules will be adjusted to maintain current numbers of students in the cafeteria at one time
- Due to the nature of the classroom setting, music classes will continue to be held at around 50% capacity
- The Prairie Point leadership team will work with staff to identify other mitigation strategies

UPDATED HYBRID LEARNING SCHEDULE

October 2, 2020

WEEKS 1-3
Students ALL K-12

WEEK 7	MONDAY October 12	TUESDAY October 13	WEDNESDAY October 14	THURSDAY October 15	FRIDAY October 16
	Hybrid Cohort A	Hybrid Cohort A	Hybrid Cohort A	Hybrid Cohort B	Hybrid Cohort B

WEEK 8	MONDAY October 19	TUESDAY October 20	WEDNESDAY October 21	THURSDAY October 22	FRIDAY October 23
	Hybrid Cohort A	Hybrid Cohort A	Hybrid Cohort B	Hybrid Cohort B	Hybrid Cohort B

WEEK 9	MONDAY October 26	TUESDAY October 27	WEDNESDAY October 28	THURSDAY October 29	FRIDAY October 30
	NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Learning	8-12 Hybrid Cohort A 7th grade full onsite	8-12 Hybrid Cohort A 7th grade full onsite	8-12 Hybrid Cohort B 7th grade full onsite	8-12 Hybrid Cohort B 7th grade full onsite

WEEK 10	MONDAY November 2	TUESDAY November 3	WEDNESDAY November 4	THURSDAY November 5	FRIDAY November 6
	9-12 Hybrid Cohort A	9-12 Hybrid Cohort A	9-12 Hybrid Cohort A	9-12 Hybrid Cohort B	9-12 Hybrid Cohort B
	7th & 8th grade full onsite	7th & 8th grade full onsite	7th & 8th grade full onsite	7th & 8th grade full onsite	7th & 8th grade full onsite

WEEK 11	MONDAY November 9	TUESDAY November 10	WEDNESDAY November 11	THURSDAY November 12	FRIDAY November 13
	9-12 Hybrid Cohort A	9-12 Hybrid Cohort A	9-12 Hybrid Cohort B	9-12 Hybrid Cohort B	9-12 Hybrid Cohort B

Any changes to planned transitions will be announced:

- ***7th grade transition to full onsite on October 26: announced by October 19***
- ***8th grade transition to full onsite on November 2: announced by October 26***
- ***9-12 transition to full onsite on November 16: announced by November 9***