



School Information and Updates

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Masking in Schools

Linn County Public Health and CDC recommend that masks be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. In areas with high COVID-19 transmission rates, masking for fully vaccinated individuals is recommended as well. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important when the options for physical distancing are limited, such as in a variety of classroom and school settings.

During the previous school year, masking was one of several mitigation strategies that were effective in our effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While schools cannot mandate that masks be worn at school due to HF 847, **the district highly encourages all students and staff to wear facemasks.** Doing so will promote the health of our students and larger community and increase the likelihood of a normal school year that is fully onsite.

Masking on Buses

The CDC issued an [Order](#) effective February 1, 2021, requiring masks on public transportation. This mask requirement **DOES** include school buses. The Iowa Department of Public Health clarified how this CDC Order impacts the masking restrictions for schools in HF 847. As stated in this [IDPH School Update](#), masks **will be** required on school busses traveling to and from school and activities until further notice.

We are asking families to provide masks for their children who ride the bus. Disposable masks will be available on each bus but with the numbers of students we transport daily, we need students to bring their own masks from home whenever possible.

Please read below for additional details.

A February 1, 2021 CDC Order requires that masks be worn on public transportation, including public school busses. It further requires that those providing such transportation take active measures to enforce the Order. The CDC's Order can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf.

The new Iowa Code [section 280.31](#) states that school districts "shall not adopt, enforce, or implement a policy that requires its employees, students, or members of the public to wear a facial covering for any purpose while on the school district's or accredited nonpublic school's property unless the facial covering is necessary for a specific extracurricular or instructional purpose, or is required by [section 280.10](#) or [280.11](#) or any other provision of law."

Many may wonder, "Why follow this CDC statement and not others?" Unlike the recent update to the CDC "guidance" recommending that K-12 schools require face masks in the fall, the CDC "Order" does require (does not merely recommend) that masks be worn on public transportation.

The CDC Order and Iowa Code section 280.31 are in direct conflict, and there is not a clear legal consensus as to which provision controls. Given the limited ability to physically distance on school busses, current demand for bussing and our campus setting, following the CDC Order and attempting to enforce it within the parameters of Iowa Code 280.31 is in the best interest of the District and student/employee health. This masking requirement does not impact other areas and functions of the school district and is only applicable to school busses.

In the development of this provision, the district sought expertise from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education and District legal counsel. We will continue to adjust practices with further clarity as needed and/or required.

Positive Cases and Quarantining

As outlined in our Return to Learn Plan and explained further [here](#), parents and guardians will have the option of quarantine their child and keeping them home from school and activities if they are exposed to COVID-19. Families will be notified by school personnel if their child may have been exposed to a positive individual at school or during a school activity.

Students who have a confirmed case of COVID-19 are required to stay home for **10 days** following the onset of symptoms, provided that their symptoms have improved, including being fever-free for 24 hours.

We strongly encourage students to stay home if they have symptoms of any illness. Doing so will allow us to keep rates of COVID-19 exposure as low as possible.

Rates of COVID-19 positivity, quarantining, and student absenteeism (related to any illness) will be published regularly on [this document](#).

School Registration - Approximately 87% of Families Have Registered

- All Prairie families **MUST** complete this electronic form prior to students starting classes this fall.
- Get started by logging into the [Infinite Campus Portal](#). This link is located on the district homepage. If you have lost your portal username or password, please use the “Forgot Password” or “Forgot Username” link on the login page. You can also call (319) 848-5240 between 8am and 4pm weekdays.
- Once you are logged into the Portal, click on “more”, then the Online Registration link is located at the bottom of the page.
- For those who need assistance or computer access, please contact District Enrollment Specialist Jennifer Armour (319)-848-5202 or email jarmour@crprairie.org.

School Supply Drive

Help Prairie kids return to school with all the supplies they need for a successful year!

HERE is a list of supplies needed for this year.

Supplies can be dropped off

- in the black boxes at the lobby of each main campus school
- at the College Community District Office
- at the Ely and Swisher libraries.

If you would prefer to donate cash to be used where it is needed most, you can do that **HERE** through the Prairie Foundation.

If you have any questions, contact Ali Alldredge (alialldredge@crprairie.org), 319-848-5224.

Register to Volunteer for the 2021-22 School Year

For the safety of our students, staff, visitors and volunteers, all volunteers at College Community Schools must register once per school year. Please remember that you must be an approved volunteer to chaperone field trips with your child.

All volunteers are checked against a national sex offender database and will have a criminal background check performed as part of the registration process. Remember to bring your driver's license to be scanned when you enter the building.

[Click here to complete the form](#) for the 2021-22 school year. If you would like help finding a place to volunteer, contact Ali Alldredge at 848-5224 or alialldredge@crprairie.org.

Transportation

Student busing information is available in your Parent Portal accounts. Please check this site and make sure the information listed is correct before the first day of school. All requests for changes to busing must be received by Tuesday, August 17th to ensure a ride on the first day of school, August 23rd.

Bus Rules Reminders for the 21-22 School Year

- Masks are required in all school vehicles at all times. Drivers will have extras available if needed
- Students will be allowed only one bus per household and this must be the same AM & PM.
- Students will have an assigned seat and must sit in it every time that they are on the bus
- Drivers will be taking attendance, please make sure that your student knows their first and last name
- Students that do not ride for ten consecutive days will be removed from busing
- No food or drink allowed on the bus
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available near the stairwell of the bus
- Drivers will be disinfecting buses after every route
- Students are required to wear a seat belt if their bus is equipped with seat belts

We are looking forward to another great year in transportation. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 848-5204.