



# Clarinda Community School District

## Return to Learn

### 2021-2022

Dear Cardinal Families,

The administrative team, school nurse, Page County Public Health, nutrition staff, custodial staff and others have been keeping current on the latest guidance from the Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health, and CDC. We have been mindful of creating a safe learning environment for our students and staff. Similar to last year, we will invest time and energy on the tasks under our control and will shift our strategies based on data.

We have three main goals in our Return to Learn Plan. We want to keep students and staff safe, provide high levels of instruction, and stay in an in-person model when possible.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Ann Lebo shared Department of Education guidance aligned with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). With this in mind and per advice from legal counsel, our collaborative team determined mitigation efforts and identified strategies for our students, staff and families:

- Stay home, if you are sick. This is the best way to keep others and yourself healthy, as allergy and cold symptoms can be the same as COVID-19 and variant strains.
- Stay home from school until 24 hours after symptoms and fever have resolved.
- Do not use fever reducing medication prior to sending your child to school. Staff members will be expected to send students with symptoms to the nurse's office right away. Families will need to pick up sick students from school promptly. Temperatures will not be taken upon entrance to school buildings.
- Bring bottled water to school or utilize the cups/fill stations in each building. Staying hydrated is critical.
- Practice handwashing and sanitizing routines at school, home and in the community. Practice covering your cough with your elbow to minimize bacteria and virus spread.
- Masks will be available for staff or students, and the district strongly encourages employees and students to wear masks on buses and in school buildings. (Please note, the district received legal counsel regarding mask requirements. Also, the district improved HVAC systems for improved air quality.)

- Daily disinfecting of classrooms, lunchrooms, and other areas will occur. Manipulatives, hard surfaces, high touch areas such as door handles, etc. will be included. Classrooms will be deep-cleaned on Fridays and as needed throughout the week.
- Sharing of supplies will be limited.
- Lunch tables will be physically distanced as much as possible, and students will eat in the commons, outdoors, and other indoor areas. Self-serve items will be pre-packaged and/or grab-and-go.
- Parents will not be allowed in the buildings before and after school. Students will be met at the door.
- Parents/Guardians desiring their student be released from school early must call the school upon arrival. Students will be released from the building to walk to the vehicle.
- Scheduled visitors will be limited to those invited by school personnel to support the learning needs. Examples include Meet the Teacher Night, athletic or performing arts nights, etc.
- Students will be utilizing lockers to house their coats, backpacks, etc. Keeping these items clean and organized contributes to a healthy environment.
- Band and vocal will follow the recommendations of the Iowa High School Music Association.
- All athletics will follow the recommendations of the Iowa Boys and Girls Athletic Associations.

If you are interested in a home COVID test, we will have these available from Page County Public Health. Parental/Guardian consent is required to send a kit home with a student. All the instructions are included in the saliva-based PCR test, as well as the shipping label. There is no cost for families to utilize this service; however, it does take a little longer than rapid testing to receive results.

Vaccination clinics for staff and students is being explored and will be offered, if possible.

In respect to health and safety policies, the district will collaborate with families to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities.

Our team appreciates each families' commitment to keeping our students safe.

Respectfully,

HT Adams, Activities Director  
Chris Bergman, Superintendent  
Luke Cox, 7-12 Principal  
Lesley Ehlers, PK-6 Principal  
Kelly Kline, School Nurse  
Allie Wellhausen, Director of Special Education