



**Linn-Mar Community
School District**

**Return-to-Learn Plan
2021-22**



Inspire Learning. **Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.**

Initially approved by the Linn-Mar Board of Directors on August 9, 2021

Updated 9/16/21, 12/13/21, and 1/24/22

WE ARE  LINN-MAR®

Linn-Mar Community School District
2999 N 10th Street, Marion, IA 52302
319-447-3000 / www.Linmar.k12.ia.us

Overview

For the 2021-22 school year, the Linn-Mar Community School District will return to in-person, traditional learning. The district will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Linn County Public Health (LCPH), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) regarding COVID-19 safety protocols.

While we are very excited to return to a more normal school environment for the 2021-22 school year, we recognize that we are still operating in a pandemic. Additional precautions remain in place and are summarized below.

Face Masks

Beginning January 3, 2022, face masks will be encouraged in all buildings for all students, staff, visitors, and before/after school daycares. Masks are an important tool in mitigating the spread of the virus and will be available at all buildings for those who wish to use them.

Visitors and Volunteers

We value the work of our volunteers and look forward to welcoming volunteers and visitors back into our schools beginning January 3, 2022.

Social Distancing

Social distancing measures will be implemented whenever possible.

Online Learning

The initial deadline to sign up for Edmentum's online learning program was June 1, 2021. Due to changes in the availability of vaccinations for children, requests from families wishing to move their students from online learning to in-person learning will be considered on an individual basis. Moving to online learning will not be available at the semester for grades K-5th.

For questions on Edmentum contact Bob Read, Associate Superintendent/Principal of Online Learning, at bread@linnmar.k12.ia.us.

For more information on the Edmentum program visit the following link:

<https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/news/linn-mar-partners-edmentum-provide-online-school-option/>

Technology

Every student will be assigned a district-owned learning device. PreK-K students will be assigned an iPad. Grades 1-12 will be assigned a laptop. Additional information regarding device pick up will be provided to families by the individual schools. If a family is in need of support to access internet services at home, they are encouraged to contact the media specialist at their student's school to check out a hot spot.

Meals

Meals will be free to all students this year due to special federal funding.

Transportation

Current CDC orders require face masks be worn on public transportation. The district will follow this CDC order and students will also have assigned seating. Additional protocols will include the disinfecting of buses after each route, windows and vents opened to allow for air circulation whenever possible, and the availability of hand sanitizing stations.

Events and Activities

All extracurricular activities will return to normal operations with no limitations on attendance.

Hand Washing

Frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing is encouraged. Hand sanitizer stations will be available in all school facilities.

Facility Cleaning

Increased emphasis regarding cleaning and disinfecting schools on a daily and weekly basis will occur. Additional cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be followed throughout the school year. Examples include, but are not limited to, hand sanitizing stations, disinfecting wipes, and increased time for student handwashing.

Facility Rentals

The district will resume the practice of opening facilities to use by outside groups for the 2021-22 school year. Visit the following link for additional information on LM facility rentals/use: <https://www.linmar.k12.ia.us/district/departments/support-services-facilities/>

COVID-19 Reporting and Information

The district will follow guidelines specified by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Students who are exhibiting COVID symptoms, **awaiting COVID test results**, or are diagnosed positive must notify the school nurse and/or health assistant immediately.

~~The staff COVID hotline is no longer in service, so~~ Staff members should ~~notify their building administrator and/or direct supervisor immediately~~ **call the employee COVID hotline to report when they are exhibiting COVID symptoms, awaiting COVID test results, or are diagnosed positive.**

Students and staff members waiting on results from a COVID-19 test should remain home until the results are received to assist in limiting exposure to healthy individuals.

~~Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 and are exhibiting symptoms will be required to self-isolate at home for 10 days since their symptoms first appeared, are fever free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications), and until other COVID-19 symptoms have improved.~~

~~Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 but are not exhibiting symptoms will be required to self-isolate until 10 days have passed since the date of their positive test.~~

~~Students and staff members exposed to an individual in their household who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay home. This could potentially be for a total of 24 days to meet the criteria of 10 days of self-isolation for the household member who tested positive, followed by 14 days of exclusion from school for observation of symptoms for the student or staff member.~~

~~Communication Procedures: When there is a positive COVID-19 case reported in a classroom, the district will communicate this to all families within the classroom. Per Iowa Department of Public Health guidelines, student exposures in the classroom will not require quarantine.~~

Communication Procedures: When there is a positive COVID-19 case reported ~~in a classroom~~, the district will communicate this to families **within the affected building as follows:**

- **For PK-6th Grades: All families within the same classroom will be notified**
- **For 7th-8th Grades: All families within the same grade level will be notified**
- **For 9th-12th Grades: All families will receive a "COVID in Your School" notification letter each day there is a positive case reported**

~~Per Iowa Department of Public Health guidelines, student exposures in the classroom will not require quarantine.~~

Data Collection: The district will collect data on the number of positive COVID-19 cases for both students and staff during the 2021-22 school year. An online, district-wide dashboard will be provided **for informational purposes that reflects the number of positive cases in each building**. To access the data dashboard, visit the following link: <https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/covid-19-information/>. For questions, students/staff should contact their individual building's health office.

Stay Home When Feeling Ill

Even though attendance is a priority for students and staff, we do encourage everyone to stay home if they are not feeling well:

- Fever of 100.0 degrees or above with signs and symptoms such as sore throat, rash, vomiting or diarrhea,
- The illness prevents the student from participating comfortably in activities and/or academics as observed by the school staff, and
- Exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms:
 - High risk symptoms include a fever/chills, new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or a loss of taste or smell.
 - Other symptoms include sore throat, headache, body aches, fatigue, runny nose, congestion, rash, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.
 - Students with COVID-19 symptoms should contact their healthcare provider for further evaluation and testing.

Visit the following link for information on the district's COVID-19 Health Services Procedures: <https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/covid-19-information/health/>

Continuity of Services

If school is interrupted due to challenges resulting from COVID-19, the district will continue to provide educational services to ensure that student learning continues in a safe manner. Any decisions regarding the potential interruption of school services will be made in accordance with the Iowa Department of Public Health, Linn County Public Health, and the Iowa Department of Education.

- Academics – In the event school is interrupted due to COVID-19, the district will ensure continued learning by utilizing one of the following methods:
 - If school is not able to be held on a daily basis, the district will move to an A/B hybrid model of learning. In the A/B hybrid model, students will attend school every other day with the same cohort of students. This model will allow for smaller class sizes and better social distancing. On days that

students are not engaged through in-person learning, they will complete work assignments via their school-assigned devices to ensure continued learning.

- If COVID reaches a point that school cannot be held in-person, the district will move to a fully online model of learning. Students will access learning through their school-assigned devices.
- Social/Emotional Health – Students will continue to have access to school counselors and at-risk support staff, in addition to classroom teachers. These supports will continue regardless of which learning model the district is utilizing.
- Nutrition Services – Meals will be provided for students at no charge throughout the 2021-22 school year. If school is not able to be held in-person, designated meal pickup locations will be available for families to access.



Inspire Learning. **Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.**

LMCSD COVID-19 Health Services Procedures

COVID-19 Positive: All cases are based on days and not hours, regardless of the time of test results. When changes occur to the COVID-19 health procedures, the implementation will occur from the date of change moving forward. The district will not go back and communicate the changes with previously diagnosed cases.

Students who are exhibiting COVID symptoms, are awaiting COVID test results, or are diagnosed positive must notify the school nurse and/or health assistant immediately. Staff members should call the employee COVID hotline when they are exhibiting COVID symptoms, are awaiting COVID test results, or are diagnosed positive.

Students and staff members waiting on results from a COVID-19 test should remain home until the results are received to assist in limiting exposure to healthy individuals.

- **Symptomatic:** Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 and are **exhibiting symptoms** will be required to self-isolate at home for 5 days since their symptoms first appeared (Day 0). If they were severely ill with COVID-19, they should isolate for the full 10 days and consult their doctor before ending isolation.
- **Asymptomatic:** Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 but are **not exhibiting symptoms** will be required to self-isolate until 5 days have passed since the date of their positive test. If they develop symptoms after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period will start over with Day 0 being the first day that symptoms developed.

Students and Staff Members Returning to School After COVID-19 Positive:

Students and staff members who are fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) **and** have improved COVID-19 symptoms (Loss of taste and/or smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and do not need to delay the end of isolation) may either:

- A) Stay home for the full 10-day period, OR
- B) Return to school on Day 6 and wear a well-fitted mask upon return for the full 10-day period.

Families of students with mask exemptions may choose A or B above. If a student refuses to wear a mask or has difficulty keeping the mask in place, the student will not be able to return to school until after Day 10. Also, the school may need to send the student home if their mask is not being worn properly.

Please note, mask exemptions will not be able to be honored for any individual who has tested positive.

Any student or staff member who is still feeling ill should stay out for the full 10 days.

Doctor's Notes: Any doctors notes pertaining to COVID will be reviewed with the family and/or doctor's office. Based upon the information received from the family and doctor, along with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines and the district's COVID-19 Health Services Procedures, the Linn-Mar Health Services Department will make the final decision regarding the student or staff member's return to school.



Student Athletes Returning to Play After COVID-19 Positive: Student athletes may return to play when they return to school. They will be required to wear a well-fitted mask during practice and competitions until after Day 10. The athletic director will put into place mask measures that follow the previously-stated guidelines for the individual sport.

Students and Staff Members in a Classroom with COVID-19 Positive Case: Per Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines, student exposures in the classroom will not require quarantine.

Communication Procedures: When there is a positive COVID-19 case reported, the district will communicate this to families within the affected building as follows:

- For PK-6th Grades: All families within the same classroom will be notified.
- For 7th-8th Grades: All families within the same grade level will be notified.
- For 9th-12th Grades: All families will receive a “COVID in Your School” notification letter each day there is a positive case reported.

Data Collection: The district will collect data on the number of positive COVID-19 cases for both students and staff during the 2021-22 school year. An online, district-wide dashboard will be provided. To access the data dashboard, visit the following link: <https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/covid-19-information/>

Mitigation Strategies:

- Required mask usage for students and staff who were positive and returning on to school on Days 6-10. Mask use is encouraged for all others.
- Masks available in all schools for all students and staff
- Masks required on school buses
- Thorough cleaning procedures implemented daily
- Handwashing encouraged
- Lunch Seating:
 - K-6th Grades: Structured in an every-other seat manner
 - 7th-12th Grades: Flexible options available for students that request additional space
- Student desks can be paired in a side-by-side manner, but not face-to-face
- Families will be notified in advance of any school-wide assemblies

Additional Mitigation Strategies for Classrooms with an Absence Percentage of 30% or Greater:

- Additional cleaning methods in the classroom by custodial staff
- Increased handwashing/hand sanitizer usage
- Student desks will be spaced utilizing additional social distancing measures, to the extent the classroom space allows



Inspire Learning. **Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.**

Additional Resources:

Free At-Home Tests: Free at-home, COVID-19 test kits are available for students and staff. Please visit the Student Services office at the Learning Resource Center (2999 N 10th Street, Room 211 / 319-447-3019) to pick them up.

LMCSD Health Services Procedures & COVID Information:

For more information on COVID-19 and Linn-Mar Health Services Procedures, please visit:

- <https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/covid-19-information/>
- <https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/covid-19-information/health/>

General Questions:

- For questions regarding students, please contact the health office of their assigned building.
- For questions regarding staff members, please call the employee COVID hotline.