

Linn-Mar Community School District

Return-to-Learn Plan 2021-22

8/1/2021



Inspire Learning. Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.

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

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Linn-Mar Community School District
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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

Per Iowa House File 847, face masks will be optional in all LM buildings for visitors, staff, and students in grades PreK-12. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status. 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. However, due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to have an obligation to provide a safe learning environment for all of our students, including those who are not old enough to receive the vaccine at this time.

So, to start the school year in a safe manner, the elementary and intermediate buildings will not be open to volunteers or visitors during school hours. This precaution will be reassessed by September 15th.

Since students ages 12 and older are able to receive the vaccine, the middle schools and high school will be allowed to welcome volunteers and visitors into their buildings at the start of the school year.

Social Distancing

To reduce the risk of transmission, the CDC recommends schools maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by those who are not fully vaccinated. The district will make efforts to implement student seating with a physical distance of at least three feet in

elementary and intermediate schools where students are not yet able to receive the COVID vaccination. This social distancing effort will not always be possible, so families are encouraged to have their students wear face masks at school if they have concerns about social distancing while in the classrooms.

Online Learning

The deadline to sign up for Edmentum's online learning program was June 1, 2021. Due to the changes in the current COVID situation, we are offering a second registration window for the online learning program. If you are interested in having your student participate in the online learning program this fall, you may register between Tuesday, August 10th and Monday, August 16th.

Visit the following link to register your student for online learning from August 10-16: <https://forms.office.com/r/51r2L99q3u>

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

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. Students will eat lunch and breakfast in the school cafeterias. Social distancing guidelines (At least three feet of physical distance between students) will be implemented as much as possible in elementary and intermediate schools. Additional areas may be available to address social distancing needs during lunch (i.e. outdoor dining).

Transportation

Current CDC orders require that 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.

Signage

All buildings will have signs clearly posted regarding handwashing practices, COVID-19 symptoms, visitor policies, and lunchroom procedures.

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 Quarantine Information

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

Students who are exhibiting COVID symptoms 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 immediately.

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 quarantine. 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 quarantine 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.

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 not be provided.

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 100.1 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.

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.