



Central Lyon Community School

Mission: To provide an education and the opportunity for ALL students to become productive, life-long learners.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding COVID-19

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GUIDANCE & EVALUATION

The Iowa Department of Education (IDOE) and Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) [released guidance for when schools may transition from in-person learning to temporary distance learning](#). In addition, the IDOE and IDPH has provided parents and schools with additional guidance when [evaluating students and staff members who may be sick](#) and need to stay home from school.

GENERAL

What measures are in place to ensure a safe environment?

Central Lyon Schools will follow the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding safety measures provided in school. The safest environments will be made possible through cooperation from students and staff in alignment with the following measures:

- **Monitor for high risk and low risk symptoms.** If your student or a staff member has one high risk symptom or two or more low risk symptoms, they should stay home and are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider.
- **Masks and face coverings.** It is recommended students and staff wear a face covering if they are unable to maintain a six (6) foot social distance. All Food Service Staff will be required to wear a face covering while preparing and serving food to students. Any individual who enters the nurse's office or athletic training room will be required to wear a face covering.
- **Social distancing.** We will do our best to keep students six (6) feet from one another, but please know it isn't always possible. Encourage your student(s) to watch their distance and wear a mask when in close contact with others.
- **Hand hygiene.** While each classroom has a bottle of hand sanitizer at the door – with a requirement to sanitize on their way into the classroom and when exiting – students and staff are strongly encouraged to also carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer to use as frequently as possible during the school day.
- **Enhanced disinfecting and cleaning.** Custodial staff will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily. A cleaning schedule has been developed for deep cleaning and sanitizing of classrooms as much as possible during the early morning and evening while students and staff are not in the building. Supplies for cleaning and sanitizing will be available in each classroom to use throughout the day. Students may be asked to assist the teacher in cleaning desks and tables during class time depending upon the learning activities that are utilized.

How will information be communicated?

As always, Central Lyon strives for effective communication. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it's vital that district families and employees understand the information shared and have their communication expectations met. In order to meet these goals, Central Lyon is:

- Striving for a timely, consistent and candid flow of accurate information.
- Pushing communications out through JMC, meaning you receive a text message alerting you a notice is available as well as an email of the communication. Be sure your contact information is up-to-date, including your email address and cell phone number.
- Bringing messaging to social media channels like Facebook (www.facebook.com/CLlions/) and Twitter (@CentralLyon)
- A repository of communications on the Central Lyon website, www.centrallyon.org > COVID-19 Updates.

Will parents/guardians and volunteers be allowed in school buildings?

Parents/guardians and volunteers will, in general, be discouraged from entering school buildings.

- Parents/guardians should call ahead before coming to school rather than arriving unannounced.
- Visitors may be asked to remain in the vestibule.

How can community members and organizations help?

Thank you for your support of Central Lyon students, we appreciate your generosity. During this unprecedented time, we're leaning on our community for support — we're stronger together!

At this time, the district is unable to accept food donations or to provide volunteer opportunities. However, financial support is always welcomed. Your donations will give us the capacity and flexibility to meet the not yet known (and not necessarily budgeted for) needs to ensure students and staff are able to effectively implement distance learning. [Email Jackie Wells](#) if you'd like to donate to keep kids connected, engaged, and learning. The district will recognize those individuals, business and organizations who wish to be acknowledged.

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

How are you disinfecting, sanitizing and cleaning to ensure student and staff safety?

Custodial staff will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces areas such as restrooms, lunchrooms, and door handles daily. A cleaning schedule has been developed for deep cleaning and sanitizing of classrooms as much as possible during the early morning and evening while students and staff are not in the building.

What cleaning/sanitizing steps are being taken in classrooms?

Supplies for cleaning and sanitizing are available in each classroom to use throughout the day. Students may be asked to assist the teacher in cleaning desks and tables during class time depending upon the learning activities utilized. Hand sanitizer is also located in various areas throughout the school.

Are buses being cleaned?

The district is working to ensure the buses are disinfected (with CDC-recommended solution). This is being done to the highest touch areas: bottom, front and backs of seats, and the bottom row of windows.

FACILITY USE AND EVENTS

Is building access limited during the school day?

AEA, Mental Health Counselors, Vocational Rehabilitation, and other student service providers will continue to maintain access to the building and students. We ask that parents/guardians and visitors call ahead rather than arrive unannounced.

Can district facilities be rented during this time?

Community members wishing to utilize school facilities should complete the facility rental form on the website; approval is granted by the Superintendent.

Is the track off limits? How about the weight room?

The track is open; however, the weight room is only available for students and staff members.

How are athletic and other concerts/events being handled?

Football, volleyball, cross country and golf are still scheduled. Central Lyon will follow the recommendations of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU).

The fall Pops concert and fall play are still scheduled. Social distancing measures will be communicated through regular channels prior to those dates.

FOOD SERVICE

What safety steps are being taken in regard to food service?

Students will sanitize their hands prior to receiving their lunch. Lunch tables will be cleaned following each lunch period.

Elementary grade levels have a staggered lunch period with TK starting at 11:15 a.m. and 6th grade finishing lunch at 12:35 p.m. Classroom pods will be used for seating at the lunch tables. Students will be socially distanced as much as possible. An alternate lunch space is available if necessary.

Secondary students also have a staggered lunch period with 7th grade starting to eat at 11:15 a.m. and the final high school lunch period finishing at 1:15 p.m. Students will be assigned seats in the commons, and an alternative lunch space is available if necessary.

All food service staff will be wearing face coverings/masks as well as gloves.

Will breakfast still be served?

Yes; breakfast will be served from 7:45 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. in the elementary gym and high school commons.

- Elementary students who choose to eat breakfast will do so in the gym at designated tables, socially distanced. Once they have finished eating they will be dismissed to their teacher's classroom.
- Secondary students who elect to eat breakfast will do so in the high school commons at designated tables, socially distanced. Once they have finished eating they will be dismissed to their homeroom or adviser's classroom.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Are face coverings required?

Face coverings (mask or shield) are recommended by all who enter district schools or facilities. It is the goal of the district to safely operate schools, promoting a culture of health and safety amongst students and staff.

- All Food Service staff will be required to wear a face covering while preparing and serving food to students.
- Any individual who enters the nurse's office or athletic training room will be required to wear a face covering.

How are school nurse services being handled?

Access to the Nurse's Office will be limited. Teachers should call the nurse or office before sending a student to see the nurse. Face coverings will be required — students and staff will be provided a paper face mask if they enter the nurse's office.

Teachers will take care of small cuts, scrapes, lip balm, etc. using classroom kits. Teachers will call the office or nurse prior to sending a student. All medication needs (medication, aspirin, ibuprofen, anti-itch cream, etc.) will be dispensed by the school nurse.

Secondary office staff or the nurse will distribute medications. It is recommended students wear a face covering when entering the secondary office.

How is hand hygiene being managed?

Students are strongly encouraged to carry a personalized bottle of hand sanitizer. Each classroom has a bottle of sanitizer at the door, and students will be required to sanitize on their way into the classroom as well as exiting from the classroom. All students will receive instructions on how to properly wash their hands, and will be encouraged to also wash their hands during the school day.

What about social distancing?

Maintaining a six-foot distance between persons is the most effective safety measure. We are encouraging a culture that supports social distancing, and visible reminders have been posted. Employees will be monitoring student arrivals and dismissals to remind students not to congregate. Parents can help by not dropping their students off in the morning before 8:00 a.m. (7:45 a.m. if they're eating breakfast).

ILLNESS

Guidance link

The following link provides guidance when [evaluating students and staff members who may be sick](#).

Stay home if you're sick — but what does that mean?

If you're sick and exhibiting symptoms of a cold, such as a sore throat, runny nose, coughing, sneezing, headache and body aches, the CDC suggests people stay home, and not go to work, school or daycare until symptoms have run their course. This means limiting exposure to others outside of your home in the community. In the event you have flu-like symptoms, such as a fever or chills beyond those of a common cold, the CDC suggests 72 hours after a fever with no fever reducing medications, and no sooner than seven days after the first symptom — whichever is longer.

Myself or a family member has symptoms, but I'm not sure if it's COVID-19. What should I do?

If you have a question about your health or that of a family member, contact your primary care physician. School health staff cannot diagnose illnesses. If a student or employee is sent home from school, a follow-up should be done with their primary care physician.

How is Central Lyon monitoring students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms?

Central Lyon is using passive screening to determine fever or illness of students and staff. Everyone is expected to monitor their health conditions and not enter the buildings if they're demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19. Those who become ill during the day will report to health services and be isolated and evaluated. They will either go home or return to class after an assessment.

Is Central Lyon Community School District monitoring those who have tested positive for COVID-19?

While Central Lyon will provide education on COVID-19 to both students and staff, Lyon County Public Health will contact those who have tested positive for COVID-19 with further instructions. Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines will be followed.

What happens if a student is diagnosed with COVID-19?

Central Lyon Community School District is working in partnership with Lyon County Public Health to follow the appropriate protocols established by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) when a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

My student came home and said a classmate has been diagnosed with COVID-19. What do I need to do with my student?

The district will work closely with Lyon County Public Health to notify students and families who have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive. If it's determined that your student has been in close contact with the individual who tested positive, your student will be required to quarantine for 14 days. If no symptoms develop during that time, they may return to school.

What should I do if I came into contact with a person who is confirmed with COVID-19?

If you have a question about your health, contact your primary care physician.

LEARNING

Will social distancing occur in classrooms?

Staff will do the best they can to socially distance students. Elementary teachers (PS-6) will follow the classroom pod/clustering system within their classroom. Secondary students, those in grades 7-12, will be assigned seats, and teachers will do their best to pod/cluster students to limit close contact with others as much as possible.

Will students move through classes as a pod (meaning the same group of kids will move through their class schedule together) or will there be a different mix of kids in each class?

Students in PS through grade 8 will move to different classrooms together as a pod or group. There will be some mixing or regrouping of students for band and choir. Those in grades 9-12 will be changing classrooms and will likely have a different mix of peers in each class.

What happens in the hallways during passing periods?

Students will be asked to keep moving, maintain social distance, and keep to the right in the hallways. Students movement during class periods will be limited. Students with health concerns may have staggered dismissal from classrooms. Central Lyon recommends students wear face coverings when moving from class to class.

Is my student allowed to bring a water bottle?

Yes! Students and staff are strongly encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Students & staff will be allowed to fill water bottles at bottle filling stations throughout the building. Traditional water fountains are unavailable until further notice.

What about recess for elementary students?

Students in grades PS-6 will have recess each day. They will line up in the classroom rather than the hallway and will sanitize their hands on the way out of the classroom. Students will use school issued balls and equipment — personal objects should be left at home. Before reentering the building, students will sanitize their hands.

My student(s) have been required to self-isolate or quarantine. How will they receive learning materials so they don't fall behind?

A parent/guardian must call the school and request learning materials. The student's laptop, text books and other related materials will be available for pick-up in the vestibule. If your entire family unit is quarantining, all materials may be delivered.

Can school change back and forth between learning scenarios—on-site, partial on-site (hybrid) and online learning?

Yes; however, the Iowa Department of Education (IDOE) must approve any changes in delivery of instruction. If a change is made, students, families and staff will be communicated through regular channels.

What options do I have if I do not feel comfortable sending my student to school on-site?

We recognize some students may be unable to attend school in-person due to either pre-existing medical conditions or out of personal family choice. We understand these decisions are difficult ones and families must make educational decisions that are best for them. If families are not comfortable sending their student(s) to school, Central Lyon offers a distance (100% online) learning program for students to continue their education.

What does online or distance learning mean?

Online or distance learning means that 100% of your students' instruction is delivered online by a teacher in the Central Lyon Community School District. The structure of the delivery for PS through grade 4 will focus on literacy (reading and English) and mathematics. Students in grades 5-12 will be enrolled in coursework through Odysseyware, which aligns with the Iowa Core.

What will be different about distance learning in 2020-2021 compared to the online learning that occurred in spring 2020?

The primary difference is that distance learning will be required. Attendance will be taken by teachers, coursework is graded, and credits are granted as appropriate.

Will computer devices be available to students who may not currently have one?

Yes. All students will be provided a laptop to continue their learning in the event they are isolating, quarantining, or instruction is moved to distance learning.

TRANSPORTATION

What about school bus transportation?

The Central Lyon transportation department is committed to getting students back and forth to school safely.

Families are strongly encouraged to transport their students to school if they have concerns regarding social distancing on school busses and in school vehicles. Students will socially distance as much as possible by sitting in every-other-seat, sitting with family members, etc. until social distancing is no longer possible.

As a secondary mitigation strategy, it is recommended students wear a face covering when social distancing is not possible on the school bus or vehicle.

To alleviate concerns of social distancing, students living outside of the Rock Rapids city limits will be dropped off at school starting at 7:45 a.m. and in-town stops will be shuttled between 7:45 and 8:10 a.m.

In the afternoon, in-town students will be shuttled starting at 3:10 p.m. and rural route students will begin their route at 3:30 p.m.

Can you ensure buses will be cleaned and disinfected?

Central Lyon's buses will be disinfected regularly to ensure student and staff safety using products that are safe, effective, and approved by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It's important to remember that students and staff should practice good handwashing hygiene prior to and after entering and exiting any spaces, including buses and school vehicles.

How will the district monitor students or employees who travel?

School districts do not have the authority or the means to monitor the personal travel of students, families or employees.

We request that our school community be aware of, and comply with, the [recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) with regard to travel domestically and abroad, particularly to areas with [Level 3 Travel Health Notices](#). If families choose to travel to areas on the list, the CDC recommends a 14-day self-imposed quarantine.

What about school-sanctioned travel?

The district will review all trips using the travel recommendations and advisories by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for guidance.

EMPLOYEES

As an employee, what if I feel like I'm sick with COVID-19?

Employees are asked to report their symptoms to their health care provider and follow those professional's instructions and the [guidelines in place from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Please then share any pertinent information with your supervisor, as with any other absence, and use your allocated sick time as needed.

My doctor or public health official has told me to self-isolate or quarantine. What should I do?

Employees who are directed to self-isolate or quarantine, should stay home and inform their supervisor of their situation as soon as possible. You may be asked to provide documentation upon your return to work.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA) provides all employees with an additional 80 hours of sick leave if:

- The employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
- The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.
- The employee is caring for an individual who is in quarantine or isolation.
- The employee is caring for a son or daughter of such employee if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, or the child care provider of such son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.

- The employee is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

Staff members may contact Jackie Wells or Brent Jorth for more information.

Which order must leave be taken in?

It is recommended that staff use sick leave until advised to isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or public health official. Your leave could look like this:

1. Sick Leave
2. FFCRA
3. Personal Leave
4. Sick Bank (if enrolled)
5. Unpaid Leave