



Dr. Steve Webner
Superintendent

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Dear Bulldogs,

I am writing to give you an update and provide more insight into district protocols regarding COVID-19. First, last week was a great start to the school year! Thank you to everyone for your cooperation, understanding, and support. We will get through this.

As of today, LCSD has 2 positive COVID cases. We have anticipated positive cases all along, and will anticipate additional cases throughout this pandemic. It has been determined that these positive cases did not become infected while at school. The state average for positive cases for school age children is 7%; we are well below that mark, at this time. As required by the Iowa Department of Public Health, COVID-19 positive individuals will remain at home until the following have occurred: 1) No fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, **AND** 2) symptoms improving, **AND** 3) 10 days since symptoms started.

Once positive COVID-19 cases are identified, the school is informed by public health officials, and then contact tracing occurs to determine if any students were a "close contact." Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of the positive case for 15 minutes or more. If students are identified as a close contact, the Iowa Department of Public Health requires these students to be quarantined for 14 days from their last contact with the COVID-19 positive individual; regardless of whether or not the quarantined student gets a COVID-19 test or not. Quarantine does not mean an individual has the COVID-19 virus; it is a precautionary measure. The CDC states, "Quarantine is intended to keep someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others." At this time, we do have students who are quarantined. Again, this is a precautionary measure. If your child is quarantined, we ask that you please contact your child's building to let them know if symptoms develop. This will help us track possible infection characteristics.

You may ask, "Don't the masks protect our students from being exposed to COVID-19?" The answer is yes. The cloth face mask does decrease the risk of infection, but does not totally eliminate the risk. The CDC states, "Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected." However, at this point in time, the Iowa Department of Public Health requires close contacts (those within 6 feet for 15 minutes of a COVID-19 positive individual) to quarantine for 14 days, even though a cloth face mask was worn by the individual at school. Again, the cloth face mask does decrease spread of the virus, which ultimately will reduce risk of infection.

Regarding the school district moving from our on-site learning model to either a hybrid or remote learning model, we monitor each building's data on a daily basis. We analyze the number of positive COVID-19 cases, community trends, number of ill students, cases of infection taking place at school, and other data. This analysis is encouraged by the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Education. We will look at each building's individual characteristics related to COVID-19 and work with public health officials to determine the best course of action for that individual building. At this time, we will continue with on-site learning.

Our ultimate goal is to protect our students, staff, and community from a COVID-19 infection. Unfortunately, the school district can only implement mitigation strategies at school; we cannot control student mitigation activities when they are not on our campus. Please help your family to follow proper COVID-19 mitigation strategies when students are not at school in order to decrease potential exposures and infections. Thank you.

Dr. Steve Webner, Superintendent