

August 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are within two weeks of the start of school. Obviously, even though all of us would prefer “things back to normal,” the current health situation will cause things to look different.

I have worked in collaboration with the Morning Sun CSD staff members in the building to institute processes and procedures to ensure a safe start for students and employees. In doing so, we have had weekly meetings for the past few weeks and worked hard to create a safer environment for everyone involved.

The potential exists for your child to be exposed to COVID-19 at school. We want to be up front about how Iowa Department of Public Health guidance requires us to respond in that situation. When a positive case is identified in our school, Louisa County Public Health will work with us to determine who was in close contact of the positive case. A close contact is defined by being within six feet or less of the confirmed case for greater than 15 minutes in the 48 hours prior to symptom onset OR positive testing if asymptomatic. Consideration will be given to exposure in the classroom, on the school bus, or other school activities. When doing contact tracing and in notifying parents of the close contact, the name, grade, etc. of the positive case will not be disclosed due to privacy. If your child is not exposed, you will not be notified out of respect and privacy for the impacted student(s).

The parents of those students who are considered close contacts will be notified by personnel from both Louisa County Public Health and the Morning Sun CSD. Current guidance requires those individuals to be quarantined for 14 days from the date of the last exposure. Any student under quarantine will continue to be provided with learning activities and assignments by district teachers allowing them the opportunity to keep up with their class and assignments.

What is known about COVID-19 is constantly changing, and as such, we are prepared to pivot as guidance from the CDC, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Louisa County Public Health changes. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work through this evolving environment together.

We also ask that if your child is not feeling well or running a low-grade fever to please keep them at home. Giving them medicine to knock a fever down so that you can send them to school should not happen. If your child is sent home from school, they will most likely miss the following school day because he/she MUST be fever free for 24 hours before coming back to school. We will monitor this closely. All of us must make the extra effort to not only keep our own child(ren) safe but to keep the classmates and teachers of our child(ren) safe. We must all work together on this in order to keep our school open and have in-person learning.

Water fountains have been removed. We now have bottle fill stations. We ask that each student bring a water bottle/container to school already filled each day. During the day when more water is needed, they will be able to use the fill stations to stay hydrated.

One final message; our goal is to keep our students and staff protected to the fullest extent possible. We are asking that no parents/guardians enter the building. However, you are welcome to drop off or pick up your child at the entry/exit doors. Also, for any appointments during the day, you will be buzzed in at the top of the steps and we ask that you wait at the entry and not come any further into the building. We will have your child(ren) come to you. Again, this is all part of our safety protocols to keep students and staff safe.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks for all you do!

Steve Hollan, Principal
Morning Sun CSD