



**Central City**  
**WILDCATS**

# Return to Learn Plan 2021-2022

Approved : August 16, 2021



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For the 2021-2022 school year, the Central City 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. This plan is a fluid document and may change during the course of the school year.

### **Face Masks**

Face masks will be optional in all Central City buildings for visitors, staff, and students in grades PreK-12. HF 847, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%20847&ga=89>

Central City encourages but does not require mask-wearing; it is one of the layered prevention strategies to keep our students healthy. Parents should discuss with their child(ren) their family's decision and the importance of respecting the face-covering decisions of others. The school district will allow students, teachers, other staff members, and visitors who want to voluntarily continue to wear a cloth face covering for reasons that make sense for their family or individual health condition to do so.

In addition, based on the recommendation of the district's legal counsel, we encourage and recommend the use of masks on school transportation.

### **Proof of Vaccination**

The School will not ask for proof of vaccination. HF 889, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits the mandatory disclosure of whether a person has received a COVID-19 vaccination as a condition for entry onto the premises of a governmental entity.

### **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. This social distancing effort will not always be possible.

### **School meals**

The USDA has authorized that school meals will be free to all students this year. Students will eat lunch and breakfast in the school cafeterias. If school is not able to be held in-person, grab and go meals will be provided. Below is a link to the press release for the free school meal program.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/20/usda-issues-pandemic-flexibilities-school-s-and-day-care-facilities>

### **Breakfast, lunch and recess**

All students will eat in the commons for breakfast and lunch. Elementary and Middle School recess will be scheduled as it was prior to the 2020-2021 school year.

### **Events and Activities**

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

### **Cleaning and disinfecting protocols**

The District will continue with the enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Practice frequent use of hand washing for at least 20 seconds, and if unavailable use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer stations are provided throughout the school building.
- High touch surfaces will be frequently disinfected.
- Bottle filling stations are available. Students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles.
- Night time aerosol sanitation of classrooms.

### **Visitors and Volunteers**

As part of the return to learn plan, the district felt it was important to host Meet and Greet and Open House Nights to invite parents back into school and help the school year get off to a good start. Volunteers may be scheduled by school staff. Visitors need to check into the office.

### **Isolation, quarantine and illness information**

The district will follow guidelines specified by the Iowa Department of Public Health for isolation and quarantine:

### **COVID-19 positive isolation**

COVID-19 positive persons can return to normal activities after:

Ten days since symptoms first appeared and 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

### **Close Contact Quarantine Information**

IDPH states, “If a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school, exposed students and teachers can be advised to consider staying home in accordance with public health best practices to monitor for symptoms. If a student or teacher becomes symptomatic they should stay home while ill and consider getting tested.”

### **Illness**

Even though attendance is a priority for students and staff, we do encourage everyone to stay home if they are not feeling well. The specific symptoms that require staying home include a fever of 100.3 degrees or above, difficulty breathing or a loss of taste or smell. Students with COVID-19 symptoms (sore throat, headache, body aches, fatigue, runny nose, congestion, rash, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea) should contact their healthcare provider for further evaluation and testing.

### **Communication Procedures**

When there is a positive COVID-19 case reported in a grade level, the district will communicate this to all families in the district..

### **Continuity of Services**

IDPH continues to ask K-12 schools to report when >10% of students are absent due to illness. When >10% absenteeism is reported, IDPH will contact the Local Public Health (LPH) department in the county where the school administrative offices are located. Public health will contact the school to provide best practices and support tailored to the specific types of illnesses being reported. 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.

### **Academics**

In the event school is interrupted due to COVID-19, the district may consider a hybrid (for secondary schools) or full time virtual model (entire district) of instruction. This decision will be made with consultation with Public Health and the Board of Education.

