

COVID Guideline Modifications

Spirit Lake Community School District - 4/28/2021

We have reached a transitional time at Spirit Lake Schools, after nearly a year of balancing educational efforts with COVID protocols and collecting data. Our goal this year has been to keep kids in school face to face, as well as keeping our students, staff and families safe. With the vaccine readily available for people 16 years and over, immunity for the virus growing, and our district data, it is time to modify our guidelines. We will continue mitigation efforts, focusing on the most effective mitigation strategies of distance, hand washing, and keeping sick students and staff at home.

District COVID Protocols Maintained:

- District protocols remain for families to report positive test results, family contact, or any exposure.
- Contact tracing will remain in place, with notification (not a required quarantine) for those exposed or a close contact.
- Classrooms remain socially distanced.
- Students/Staff with any illness symptoms need to stay home, following district guidelines.
- Students/Staff who test positive will quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset.
- Students/Staff who are a close contact AND get symptoms **will** quarantine, per district guidance.

District COVID Protocol Changes:

- Students/Staff who are close contacts AND have no symptoms will **not** be required to quarantine. (The district reserves the right, given prolonged direct contact, to quarantine students or require other safety measures in given situations.)
- Students/Staff with a positive household contact will be counseled individually regarding quarantine and other necessary safety measures.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine, provided they do not develop symptoms.
- If identified as a close contact, families have the option to keep students home in quarantine. If they choose this option, students will be served online, in the same manner as current quarantined students are served.
- During lunch and in gathering spaces students are asked to maintain distance.
- Hallway masking is optional. Masks will be required when social distancing is not maintained and the contact is an extended period of time.
- Prom, Graduation, and other activities will be treated as an activity (i.e., basketball, wrestling, etc.) and will follow similar protocols, per direction of Superintendent.