

Chariton Community School District
2023-2024 Return to Learn Information/COVID-19 Update

August, 2023

Again this school year, Chariton Community Schools will continue to diligently engage with and evaluate the evolving guidance regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including the most current Chariton County Public Health, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Education, and Governor's Office guidelines.

In addition, we will continue to monitor our local school, community, and county conditions as we prepare for the start of school on Tuesday, August 23, 2023. As we were last school year, we will deliberate in planning for a successful 2023-2024 school year with a renewed focus on student learning and engagement.

School Day Procedures

- Chariton Community Schools will adhere to the board-approved 2023-2024 school calendar to the fullest extent possible.
- Chariton Community Schools will offer full-time, 100% on-campus student learning. Students will follow the regular school schedule.
- Chariton Community Schools will offer an online option for students with a qualifying and documented health condition. Remote instruction will not be offered as a student choice.
- Affiliated educational services such as nutrition and transportation will conduct operations in their standard manner.

Daily Health Practices and Routines

- The District will continue utilizing ventilation and cleaning strategies to support a safe and healthy learning school environment.
- Teachers will emphasize good hand hygiene and may direct or instruct students on handwashing in an age-appropriate fashion.
- Attention will be given to frequent sanitizing of high-touch surfaces.
- Water bottle filling stations and water fountains will be used in buildings.
- Social distancing will be supported to the extent possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout district buildings.

Monitoring and Reporting Illness

The Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Public Education released return guidance to school districts that directs that COVID-19 be addressed as other childhood illnesses are.

- It is essential for parents/guardians to monitor their child's health. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, the child(ren) must stay home from school.
- Students who exhibit any signs of illness will be evaluated by school personnel and may be sent home following a typical illness.
- Symptoms such as sore throat, rash, vomiting, and diarrhea should be discussed with your healthcare provider. ● If your child is absent, please contact the appropriate school office to report the absence. ● Contact the school nurse to report a positive COVID-19 case and/or any potential exposure your child may have had to a positive COVID-19 case.
- Chariton CSD Staff will not conduct contact tracing this year.
- Students and staff who receive a positive Covid-19 test result or were exposed will adhere to the following:

- a. Isolate until all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. Stay home for 5 days
 - ii. If you have no symptoms or are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house. Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days

OR

- b. If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, quarantine until all of the following criteria are met:
 - IF you: Have been boosted OR
 - Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR
 - Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months
 - Wear a mask around others for 10 days
 - Test on day 5, if possible
 - If symptoms get a test and stay home
 - IF you:
 - Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR
 - Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR
 - Are unvaccinated
 - Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days
 - Test on day 5 if possible.

Face Masks

In accordance with House File 847, passed during the 2021 Legislative Session, local schools and school boards no longer have the authority to require students, staff or visitors to wear a face covering to school. This includes during the school day, at school events, athletic activities, practices, camps, etc, and on buses. It is important to note that the use of masks or other face coverings is currently welcomed in schools for students, staff, families, and visitors to school. Students and staff who choose to wear masks will be supported in their choice. According to the CDC, masks have been found helpful in reducing exposure to or spreading illness.

Positivity rates will be monitored for individual classrooms and buildings, the District overall, and the Chariton and Lucas County community. If 10% of students and/or staff are absent due to COVID-19 or other identified childhood illnesses, the District will contact Chariton County Public Health and implement mitigation strategies. These strategies may include but are not limited to, shifting to another instructional delivery model that could be applied to a specific classroom or building, depending on the situation.

The United States Centers for Disease Control does provide Guidance for [COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) that parents and staff are encouraged to be aware of and consider.

We look forward to your continued support and partnership and to a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Brad Baker, Superintendent

Please note COVID-19 information is subject to change at any time throughout the school year. Any changes in our COVID-19 plans, procedures or policies will be communicated to staff and families promptly and through our regular channels of communication, such as the ParentSquare App and the District website.