

FORT DODGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN



Fort Dodge Community School District

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The introduction of COVID-19 has changed our world. However, it has not changed the need to educate all of our students. The Fort Dodge Community School District (FDCSD) is committed to providing the resources needed for our students to continue to receive a high quality education. While the way we deliver lessons may change, our priority of student achievement and well-being has and will remain.

The FDCSD is working diligently to provide and implement a learning model for instruction that continues to allow for student learning and mastery of the Early Learning Standards and the Iowa Core Academic Standards. No matter what the public health landscape looks like and what limitations may be placed on instruction by the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Education, our commitment will continue to be on teaching and learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority for the FDCSD. The needs of all students will continue to be met through meaningful and purposeful instruction regardless of the delivery method.

This document provides guidance for students, families and employees. It is broken down into seven categories: leadership, infrastructure, health and safety, Iowa academic standards, equity, social emotional behavioral health and communications.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Fort Dodge Community School District is to provide quality learning experiences and build relationships that develop productive citizens ready for their futures.

DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

The Fort Dodge Community School District is an innovative school community that exceeds expectations, builds meaningful relationships and creates the foundation for all learners to excel.

LEADERSHIP

The Fort Dodge Community School District will continue to focus learning on strong relationships and instruction for students. Resources and systems will be in place to support teachers and staff in meeting the needs of all learners. District leaders will work to continuously ensure the academic and social emotional needs of students and staff are being met.

The FDCSD strives to keep our Dodger families and the community informed and engaged in the happenings of the school system. We will review the need for increased communication efforts around things like the status of schools (open or closed in response to virus outbreaks), health advisories and guidelines, operational modifications, resources, government actions and crisis situations.

MOVING FORWARD

The health and safety of our students and staff will continue to be our top priority. The FDCSD leadership team will work to ensure consistency, fluidity and continuity in how information and learning are provided.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure includes organizational structures critical in day-to-day operations. This includes ensuring everyone has access to the technology needed to support student learning, establishing district/school calendars to maximize student learning opportunities, supporting needed professional development opportunities for teachers and staff, and adhering to privacy/FERPA concerns.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

The FDCSD will assign each TK-12 student with a device (Chromebook or iPad). This will limit the sharing of devices, which are considered high touch surfaces, while students are in school.

CALENDAR

The 2021-2022 calendar has student learning beginning on August 24 and concluding on May 27. There are teacher professional development days built into six months (August, October, November, January, March and May). The District will maintain the calendar and school day times as previously adopted for educational instruction opportunities.

21-22 School Hours

- Preschool: 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- TK and Kindergarten: 8 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- Elementary: 8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
- Middle School: 8 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.
- Senior High: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of our Dodger students, families and staff are first and foremost in planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Privacy and confidentiality (HIPPA and FERPA) will be ensured for those seeking healthcare. Counselors will be available to address emotional/behavior needs in relations to COVID-19.

Health and Safety of Staff

- Immunocompromised staff will be encouraged to seek advice from their health care provider to determine re-entry into school
- Staff will be reminded to stay home if they are sick/not feeling well
- Staff will follow the CDC guidelines if testing positive for COVID-19, have an exposure to COVID-19, or if returning from travel to a high risk area
- Staff who develop COVID-19 like illness/symptoms at school will be encouraged to wear a face mask until they can exit building

Health and Safety of Students

- Immunocompromised students will be encouraged to seek advice from their health care

provider to determine re-entry into school

- Students will be required to follow CDC guidelines if testing positive for COVID-19, have an exposure to COVID-19, or if returning from travel to a high risk area
- Students who develop COVID-19 like illness/symptoms at school will be encouraged to wear a face mask (if feasible) until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian or exit building
- Teachers will notify the nurse if an ill student needs seen
- Students must be free of fever without the use of medication for 24 hours before returning to school. A fever is considered 100.4 degrees or higher.

PPE, Hand Sanitizer and Cleaning Supplies

- Sanitizer and cleaning supplies as well as a limited supply of PPE will be obtained and provided as needed for staff and students by the custodial department
- Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer are optional on student school supply lists
- Paper towels and sanitizer spray bottles will be supplied to each teacher for the classroom
- Chromebooks will be disinfected in between students if devices are shared
- Each school nurse will order/maintain adequate PPE and cleaning supplies for the health office
- Building and grounds will oversee ordering and maintaining adequate PPE and cleaning supplies for custodial staff

Nurse Office Structure

- Sick kids will be sent to a designated area if feasible
- Each office has appropriate ventilation requirements per building
- Each office area will be cleaned/disinfected after each child
- Students with possible respiratory illness will be encouraged to wear a face mask until parent arrives or they are able to exit the building (if feasible)
- Teachers will notify nurse if ill student needs seen
- Students will have scheduled times to take daily medications in the morning, lunchtime and afternoon
- Nurses will not accept ill student visits during medication times unless it's an emergency

Cleaning Time and Routine

- Daily cleaning will be continued with additional time for high touch areas as designated by custodial crew

Buses/ transport vehicles

- Buses will be disinfected after each use (morning route, afternoon route, special events) using a tank sprayer with disinfectant with extra focus on high touch areas like handrails, seats, and windows.
- No students will be transported in staff personal vehicles (if feasible)
- Students and staff will follow federal/state guidelines regarding requirements to wear a face mask

Mitigation Strategies

- Education and frequent reminders on frequent hand washing, how/when to use hand sanitizer,

cough/sneeze etiquette, keeping hands away from face, etc. will be provided to staff and students

- PPE will be provided for teachers and staff as requested
- Hand washing posters will be placed in halls
- Hand sanitizer will be placed at all entries to lunch rooms
- Sports will follow IGHSAU and IAHSAA guidelines and restrictions as feasible
- Choir/Band will follow IHSMA guidelines and restrictions as feasible

Day Custodian

- Disinfect areas frequently touched twice daily; such as drinking fountains, toilet handles, soap and toilet paper dispensers, sinks, high traffic door handles (office, gym, library).
Spray and wipe
- Disinfect lunch tables after each lunch period
- Disinfect nurse's office twice daily
- Disinfect playground equipment daily using a tank sprayer with disinfectant

Night Custodian

- Disinfect areas frequently touched inside/outside classrooms nightly; such as doors/door handles, table/desk tops, pencil sharpeners, classroom bathrooms/sinks, locker handles using a tank sprayer
- Disinfect main bathrooms thoroughly, clean walls, toilets, sinks, partition walls and doors using a tank sprayer with disinfectant
- Disinfect locker rooms using a tank sprayer with disinfectant
- Chromebooks - Spray disinfectant on towel then wipe down. DO NOT spray disinfectant directly on computers. Disinfect shared devices nightly at all levels nightly

Teachers

- Will disinfect student table/desktops and highly touched areas at their discretion
- Playground and PE equipment will be cleaned as feasible
- Handwashing and use of hand sanitizer will be regularly encouraged. Hand sanitizer will be strategically placed throughout buildings as feasible
- Work areas/team rooms will be restricted to staff/teachers only, no student access. Cleaning/disinfection should be done before/after lunch/break

IOWA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

At the FDCSD, academic learning will continue to be a priority. The Academic Standards team identified critical action steps that will address the learning needs of all students. The action steps include:

- Determining Power Standards
- Use of pacing guides for content areas
- Use of Professional Learning Communities by staff to assess student progress
- Professional development for staff
- Regular check ins between students and staff

EQUITY

The FDCSD is committed to creating equitable learning opportunities for all students. Equity in this context is focused on ensuring all students, including students with individualized education plans, English language learners, students at risk and talented and gifted students, have access to a free and appropriate public education, are able to access the Iowa Content Standards and have the supports needed to progress in their learning.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Staff will be provided guidance on how to develop classroom culture and routines. Social emotional learning activities will be conducted throughout the day to meet the needs of students. Morning meetings, closing circles, and community circles will be held.

Conversations with families will take place at the beginning of the school year and as needed throughout to help identify needs of students and families.

COMMUNICATIONS

The FDCSD Communications department will continue to keep staff, families and students and the Fort Dodge community informed about the work of the District.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

The FDCSD Communications department provides regular and urgent messages to our staff in multiple ways including email, phone calls, text messages, face-to-face and/or virtual meetings the staff intranet site, website and social media channels.

- Email is our primary mode of communication with employees. All staff should check their email a minimum of once a day.
- Phone and text is used for urgent messages and as a reminder for staff to check their email.
- Face-to-face/virtual meetings may be used by building and/or department leaders to share updates and information.
- Staff are encouraged to like or follow the District on Facebook and Twitter for updates and reminders.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

These are the messages sent to all audiences outside of the employees. They include day-to-day messaging, urgent information and changes to health/safety status. In many instances these messages will also be sent to staff. Delivery method will include emails, phone and text messaging, the website and social media. It may also include traditional media coverage.

- Email is our primary mode of communication. Families can sign up to receive emails from the District through their Infinite Campus Parent account.
- Phone and text is used to provide important updates and crisis alerts. Families can sign up to receive calls and/or texts through their Infinite Campus Parent account.
- Website announcements are used for timely updates and announcements. Information will be placed in a banner near the top of the homepage, www.fdschools.org.
- Social media is used for updates and reminders. Much of the content will encourage interaction and participation. Follow or like the District on Facebook and Twitter for updates.

- Media coverage can be reactive or proactive. When possible media stories will be shared on our social media.

CRISIS COMMUNICATION

To communicate our updates and responses, the District will rely on Infinite Campus for calls, emails and texts, our website and social media channels.

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