



North Union Community Schools

Safely Returning to School

A return to learn planning team has been meeting frequently to discuss and plan for the preferred method of learning; on-site learning in buildings. The health and safety of our students and staff is at the center of all planning discussions and the recommended mitigation strategies of social distancing (*6 feet apart for 15 minutes or less*) and hygiene practices were considered in all aspects of the school day. While there are still some topics and issues that are being discussed, there are some things we wanted to highlight and share as school is beginning in one month!

General Information for Returning to School--

- School will be beginning on August 24th, in the school buildings, for all NU students. Registration is Aug. 10 from 12-7pm and Aug. 11 from 7am-2pm.
- The school will **not** be taking the temperatures of staff and students but it is suggested that temperatures be taken at home. Do **not** attend school if a temperature is **100.4** or above.
- The wearing of face coverings and masks will **not** be required but students and staff are encouraged to wear face coverings, at their choice, however, the wearing of face coverings may be necessary for certain classes in unique learning situations.
- As school resumes, we will be limiting the traffic in the buildings. Parents will be asked to call the building offices if they need to enter the building. When dropping off/picking up students outside of regular start and end times, we ask you to call the office and the child will be sent to your vehicle.
- There will **not** be open houses in the buildings this year but each building will be sending information to families on a way to welcome students back safely.
- The school district will collaborate with the Iowa Department of Public Health, local community health officials, and our district leadership teams to continue to track community activity on the spread of the virus. Decisions will be made collaboratively and be communicated immediately.
- The IHSAA has stated fall sports will resume (*football, cross country and volleyball*) and more information will be available in the next few weeks.

Information About Classrooms --

- Classroom structures have been reconfigured to accommodate social distancing as much as possible.
- Common gathering places (*recess, lunchrooms, etc...*) have been considered and adjustments being made for these areas.
- All classrooms will be disinfected before and after school and times throughout the day when classrooms are empty.
- Hand sanitizers will be available in all rooms and teachers will have access to cleaning supplies in the classroom for use.
- Students working in groups and pairs will be minimal but may be necessary for some learning activities.
- Limited use of sharing materials (*pens, papers, etc...*) will be emphasized.

Information About Transportation--

- The district will be providing transportation to and from school as usual. Although masks are not required, they would be encouraged on the buses as social distancing will be difficult to maintain. Parents have always had the option of transporting their students to and from schools.
- All busses will be disinfected on a daily basis.

Final Thoughts...

We want to see all North Union students and staff happy and healthy in our buildings! We are thoughtfully and purposefully planning and making decisions on what is known at the current time and what will be in the best interest of students and staff. If you have a unique family situation and are severely concerned with the first semester of the year, please contact the building principals so we can meet with you to address concerns and plan for success.

--North Union Administration Team