

## **IRENE-WAKONDA SCHOOL DISTRICT 13-3**

### "Start To School" Plan 2020 - 2021

The Irene-Wakonda School District takes great pride in providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have developed the following plan and protocols for the 2020 – 2021 school year to continue our commitment to a safe and great learning environment. With the plan and protocols in place, we are excited to open our school year on Monday, August 24th, 2020 at Level 1 with Traditional Learning – On-Campus plus accommodations.

Throughout the school year, our District will continue to monitor the virus and adjust the plan and protocols as necessary for the safety of our students and staff. We have developed models that will allow us to switch to another delivery model, as required by public health officials. The health and safety of all students and staff will drive our decision-making. All families should have a plan in place in the event that we must switch from one delivery model to another.

Looking forward to a great 2020 - 2021 school year,

**Superintendent David Hutchison** 

**STOP!** Before we get to the "Start to School" plan, we need your help in making this a safe and great school year! It is important that you utilize the I-W Home Screening Checklist with your student daily before they leave for school!

**I-W STUDENT SYMPTOM HOME SCREENING CHECKLIST** 

Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or higher?	YES	NO
Does your child have a sore throat?	YES	NO
Does your child have a new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing?	YES	NO
Has your child been experiencing diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain?	YES	NO
Does your child have a new onset of a severe headache, especially with a fever?	YES	NO
Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19?	YES	NO
Has your child had close contact with a person under quarantine?	YES	NO

STOP	<ul> <li>RED Symptom Alone = Stay home from school until 24 hours after fever resolves.</li> <li>BLUE Symptom(s) Alone = Exclusion from school for COVID-19 not necessary, but may have an illness that would require exclusion from school.</li> <li>BLACK Exposure + RED Symptom or BLUE Symptom = Exclude from school until test result is negative OR if untested, at least 10 days since system onset (and 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved.</li> </ul>
go	If NO to <u>ALL</u> questions go to school.

# Thank you in advance for helping us create a safe environment for all students and staff! And now, on to the "Start to School" plan.

\*\*There is a question and answer section at the end of the plan for frequently asked questions.

### Irene-Wakonda School District "Start to School" Plan 2020 - 2021

LEVEL 0	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
No risk/spread	Low to moderate risk/spread	High risk/spread	Severe risk/spread
Education Delivery Level 0 (On-Campus)	Education Delivery Level 1 (On-Campus + Accommodations)	Education Delivery Level 2 (Hybrid: On- Campus and Remote)	Education Delivery Level 3 (Remote)
All students will return to school full-time for	All students will return to school full-time for	All students will return to school with a mix of	All students will be offered
TRADITIONAL	TRADITIONAL	TRADITIONAL	REMOTE
LEARNING	LEARNING	AND REMOTE	LEARNING
In school 4 days a week	In school 4 days a week -Masks strongly recommended.	LEARNING	ONLY
- Masks recommended-	Students may be required by staff to wear a mask in the classroom and during close	Potential of Alternate Schedules	School buildings closed to students and visitors
	proximity activities-	-Masks required-	

On-Line Learning option is available for families not ready to return to Traditional learning in each phase.

NOTE: In the event of increased risk of the spread of COVID-19 in our community, I-W schools may return to a 100% Remote learning model during any phase.

#### **Explanation of Level System**

The District has developed the *Irene-Wakonda School District "Start to School" plan* as a guide for when a case of COVID-19 occurs in a school building or in the community. The administration will work with the South Dakota Department of Health (S.D. DOH) and local health care providers to determine the best course of action within our schools. If the number of cases increases, the school district will move to the appropriate level based on the advice from S.D. DOH and local health care providers. The administration will decide on what level we will implement based on the number of cases in our area and the recommendation of S.D. DOH and local health care providers.

**Level 0:** Zero cases in our community. S.D. DOH recommends school remains in session. Staff and students are to follow guidelines provided in the *Irene-Wakonda School District "Start to School" plan.* Masks are recommended for students and staff in common areas or while working in close proximity to one another.

Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will be served daily with individually wrapped condiments.

**Level 1**: Case(s) have been identified in our community by the S.D. DOH but not in our school, meaning students/staff members have been identified as being in close contact of a positive Covid-19 case outside of the school community. The S.D. DOH recommends school remains in session and to follow guidelines provided in the *Irene-Wakonda School District "Start to School" plan.* 

Masks are strongly recommended for students and staff. Students may be required by staff to wear a mask in the classroom and during close proximity activities. Increased social distance will be used where applicable.

Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will be served daily with individually wrapped condiments. Student lunch and recess periods will be staggered in efforts to lower the population in the cafeteria.

Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed in the buildings for drop off or pick up of students. Outside visitors will not be allowed in the building unless approved by the administration.

**Level 2**: Students/staff members have been identified as a positive Covid-19 case. S.D. DOH recommends that school officials reassess processes looking for gaps in prevention strategies. CDC and S.D. DOH will recommend closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (if feasible) before cleaning and disinfecting. S.D. DOH will contact school administration for further instruction and contact tracing information. S.D. DOH recommends that schools may stay open and follow guidelines provided in *Irene-Wakonda School District "Start to School" plan.* 

Possible closures:

- 1. Same grades only
- 2. Wings of the school
- 3. Students only
- 4. K-6 only, or 7-12 only
- 5. 72-hour cleaning cycles
- 6. 14-day quarantine cycles

Masks will be required for students and staff.

Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will be served daily with individually wrapped condiments and with disposable products (trays and silverware). Student lunch and recess periods will be staggered in efforts to lower the population in the cafeteria. If social distancing cannot occur, lunch services will be provided in the classroom. The administration may determine that some classes will eat in their classrooms if needed to try and adhere to social distancing recommendations from the CDC and S.D. DOH. Staggered bus routes may take place to limit the number seated on the bus.

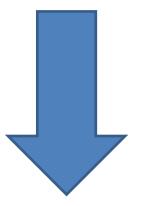
**Level 3:** Multiple active positive COVID-19 cases in our school within 14 days of the first active identified case. S.D. DOH recommend school officials review data to understand levels of spread within the building. S.D. DOH will guide Irene-Wakonda School District in Coronavirus contact tracing and further decision making. The Irene-Wakonda School District and the S.D. DOH will examine data and recommend closure of the school for a time appropriate with the situation.

Options for remote learning attendance:

- 1. All staff report to school, students do not.
- 2. Facilities will be closed to everyone.

The Irene-Wakonda School District will remain in Level Three until positive cases have been determined to no longer be contagious, the amount of quarantine days have passed, no other positive cases have been discovered, and the S.D. DOH has been contacted for guidance and recommendations.

### Now on to the protocols for the "Start to School" plan!



Irene-Wakonda "Start to School" Protocols for Delivery Levels	•	Level 1: Low to moderate risk/spread "Traditional Learning plus accommodations: On-Campus"	Level 2: High risk/spread "Hybrid Learning: Traditional and Remote/Packet Learning"	Level 3: Severe risk/spread "Remote/Packet Learning"
Hand Washing Hand Sanitizing	Staff and students will wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and utilze hand sanitizer Staff and students will avoid		Staff and students will wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and utilize hand sanitizer especially after leaving common spaces in the school, after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. Staff and students will avoid touching	NA: Remote learning/packets district wide.
	touching their eyes, nose, and mouth	their eyes, nose, and mouth	their eyes, nose, and mouth.	
Touch Surface Cleaning: desks, door handles, electronic devices	Touch points cleaned throughout the day within the building. All classrooms will be sanitized with electrostatic sanitizing machine at end of day.	Touch points cleaned at lunch and end of the school day by teachers. All classrooms will be sanitized with electrostatic sanitizing machine at end of day.	Touch points cleaned between each learning block/class periods. All classrooms will be sanitized with electrostatic sanitizing machine at end of day. All staff may be responsible for all	Cleaning would be done by custodial staff.
			cleaning protocols.	
Masks	Recommended for students and staff but are not required to wear masks.	Strongly recommended for students and staff to wear masks when entering the building.	Required for students and staff to wear masks when entering the building.	
	Students and staff may be required to wear masks in situations the administration deems necessary.	Students may be required by staff to wear a mask in the classroom and during close proximity activities.		NA: Remote learning/packets district wide. No students in building.
	Parents screen children at home for temperature, runny nose, cough, and other symptoms. Please see attached I-W Screening Checklist.	Parents screen children at home for temperature, runny nose, cough, and other symptoms. Please see attached I-W Screening Checklist.	Parents screen children at home for temperature, runny nose, cough, and other symptoms. Please see attached I-W Screening Checklist.	NA: Remote learning/packets
			Students do not report to school if ill; MUST BE fever free without medication for 24 hours.	district wide. No students in building.
		Students returning to school will be subject to the Irene-Wakonda School District screening process.	All students will be subject to the Irene- Wakonda School District screening process.	
Pre-Screening for Employees	Teachers self-screen at home for temperature, runny nose, cough and other symptoms.	Teachers self-screen at home for temperature, runny nose, cough and other symptoms.	Teachers self-screen at home for temperature, runny nose, cough and other symptoms.	NA: Remote learning/packets district wide. No students in building. Teachers will report and
	MUST BE fever free without medication for 24 hours.	MUST BE fever free without medication for 24 hours.	MUST BE fever free without medication for 24 hours.	self-screen at home.

Busing	Student are assigned seats; seat	Students are assigned seats; seat	Students are assigned seats; seat	
	social distancing. Masks are recommended.	families together to maintain proper social distancing. Masks are strongly recommended for students but may be required by bus drivers	families together to maintain proper social distancing. Masks are required.	NA: Remote learning/packets district wide. No busing.
	Surfaces wiped down at end of each day.	Surfaces are wiped down between routes.	Surfaces are wiped down between routes.	district wide. No busing.
	Hand sanitizer systems on all buses.	Hand sanitizer systems on all buses.	Hand sanitizer systems on all buses.	
Water Fountains	Water bottles are provided by students and families or made available by school building on request,	Emergency mouth drinking from fountains only.	No mouth drinking from fountains.	NA: Remote learning/packets district wide. No students in building.
	Touchless fountains available.	Water bottles are provided by students; can be made available by school. Touchless fountains available.	Water bottles are provided by students; can be made available by school. Touchless fountains available.	
Cafeteria/Meals	Traditional hot lunch service provided; individually wrapped condiments,	Traditional hot lunch service provided; individually wrapped condiments.	Traditional hot lunch service provided; using individually wrapped condiments and disposable lunch products (ie: plates, plastic siverware).	Meal assistance set-up.
		Social distance schedule and capacity; staggering lunch times.	**If social distancing cannot occur, lunch would need to be provided in classrooms.	
Passing Periods	Follow regular scheduled passing periods.	Longer/staggered passing periods throughout the day to ensure enough time for touch-surface cleaning protocols to occur.	Longer/staggered passing periods throughout the day to ensure enough time for touch-surface cleaning protocols to occur.	NA: Remote learning/packets
			Students may stay in classrooms and teachers may move throughout the building to avoid students from passing from class to class.	district wide.
Entering (arrival)	Follow normal protocols, maintaining social distance. Students begin arrival no earlier than 7:40 am on school days	social distance, students begin arrival no earlier than 7:40 am on school days, elementary students	typical protocols, maintaining social distance, students begin arrival no earlier than 7:40 am on school days,	Social distancing practices will be in place for entering/exiting the building (no students or visitors allowed in the building during this time).
Exit (dismissal) building	Follow normal protocols, maintaining social distance.	Follow normal protocols, maintaining social distance, extended traditional dismissal times.	Dismissal times will be staggered for longer durations and between levels.	Social distancing practices will be in place for entering/exiting the building (no students or visitors allowed in the building during this time).
Response to sick students in school	Normal cleaning procedures in place.	Normal cleaning procedures in place.	Normal cleaning procedures in place.	

building (any sickness)	Student will be isolated, placed in a mask, and parents will be contacted to take student home.		Student will be isolated, placed in a mask, and parents will be contacted to take student home.	NA: Remote learning/packets district wide.
Positive cases and response	Follow Department of Health guidelines and protocol.	Follow Department of Health guidelines and protocol.	Follow Department of Health guidelines and protocol.	NA.
Extracurricular Activities/Travel (Student)	SDHSAA Guidelines will be followed for all extra-curricular activities.	all extra-curricular activities.	SDHSAA Guideline will be followed for all extra-curricular activities. Will follow SD DOH guidelines for travel.	Extra-curricular activities will be cancelled.
Common Space Use (i.e. restrooms - scheduled visits,	Common Space may be used per normal building expectations.	distancing and proper cleaning.	Utilization of common space needs to be scheduled to ensure social distancing and proper cleaning.	Buildings shut down to all students and visitors.
playground/recess, study hall locations, Music/Band, hallway, locker rooms, gym)		Assigned restroom utilization (i.e: by class, locations, grade, etc.).	Assigned restroom utilization (i.e: by class, locations, grade, etc.). Increase frequency of cleaning in all common spaces.	Staff are in buildings and work from their assigned areas
Classroom Space	Classroom space may be used per normal building expectations.	Utilization of classroom space needs to ensure social distancing and proper cleaning.	Teachers rotate rooms. Utilization of classroom space needs to ensure social distancing and proper cleaning. Students in affected areas may be required to use desks.	Buildings shut down to all students and visitors. Staff are in buildings and work from their assigned areas. Remote learning/packets district wide.
		Assigned restroom utilization (i.e: by class, locations, grade, etc.). Increase level of cleaning in all classroom spaces.	Assigned restroom utilization (i.e: by class, locations, grade, etc.). Increase level of cleaning in all classroom spaces.	
Visitors	Follow normal protocols.	For all cases that would require a student to leave, parents will call when they arrive at the building and their child will be released.	For all cases that would require a student to leave, parents will call when they arrive at the building and their child will be released.	NA.
			Families are restricted from visiting the school to only activities, meetings, and etc. that have been authorized by the school.	

### Irene-Wakonda School District "Start to School" Plan 2020 – 2021 (Questions and Answers)

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

#### Will students and staff wear masks on campus?

At this time, we are expecting to start school on Level 1. Students and staff are strongly recommended to wear masks but students may be required by staff to wear a mask in the classroom and during close proximity activities. This could change depending on what Level of the plan we are at. The Irene-Wakonda School District will be supplying every student and staff member with one reusable mask. Reusable masks should still be on every student's school supply list.

#### Will students be expected to socially distance?

Students will be socially distanced to the extent possible. At the elementary school level, where social distancing will be difficult, students will spend most of the school day interacting only with students in their class or another class at recess. By limiting their exposure to a small number of students, we reduce the chance of infection. In most cases, if a student becomes ill, the immediate class is affected, not the entire school. At the intermediate and secondary levels, social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible.

#### What steps will be taken to ensure that surfaces are clean in classrooms?

School custodians will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the conclusion of every day with electrostatic sanitizing machines. Other non-custodial staff members will be expected to do their part to keep surfaces clean. Teachers will have access to cleaning supplies for their classroom.

#### What other steps are being taken to ensure a healthy environment?

The Irene-Wakonda School District will partner with parents in educating students on the importance of staying home when sick, washing hands, utilizing hand sanitizer, practicing good hygiene, and maintaining social distancing. The Daily Individual Health Screening Process is to be completed at home, prior to arrival, and during the morning on a routine basis. Hand sanitizer systems are available in classrooms and workplaces.

#### What will my student's school do if a classmate or staff member is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms?

Any individual exhibiting symptoms of illness will be given a surgical mask, be isolated, and be required to leave the facility. The individual's return will be allowed based on following criteria: 14 days symptom free, a negative COVID-19 test, or documentation allowing return from a Health Care Professional.

#### What if a student or staff member's COVID-19 test is confirmed positive?

The South Dakota Department of Health or a medical provider will notify the district if a student or staff member tests positive. The school will notify applicable families, while not specifically identifying the student or staff member. We will cooperate with the Department of Health and assist with the notification of individuals who have been deemed a close contact with the confirmed case.

#### Will I receive communication if there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in my child's school?

Yes, all families will be informed at the building level.

#### Will I receive communication if my child is deemed a close contact?

Yes, you will receive direct communication and will be instructed to quarantine for 14 days.

### Will I receive communication if an individual in my child's classroom is quarantined due to being a close contact or exhibiting symptoms?

No. The act of quarantine is a proactive precautionary approach to isolate a potential infection. An individual that is required to quarantine due to being a close contact of a person with a positive COVID-19 test will not result in communication to parents. Only confirmed positive cases, by the Department of Health or a medical provider, will be communicated to families.

#### Will the general public be informed of an individual's COVID-19 test results?

No. We will not disclose an individual's health information, including the result of a COVID-19 test. Such an action would be a violation of Federal Law (HIPAA).

#### What is the Irene-Wakonda School District doing to promote a safe environment for staff?

In addition to the safety precautions described above, all staff will be provided a face shield and strongly recommended to wear a mask. Staff will have an option to require students in a classroom to wear a mask. This could change depending on what Level of the plan we are at.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION

#### Will the district be completing special education evaluations when school reopens?

The Irene-Wakonda School District will continue to identify, locate, and evaluate students suspected of having a disability and needing special education and related services. At the same time, we will be mindful that students have been displaced from their typical learning environment when initiating the referral process. Evaluations require in-person contact with students or observations of students in educational settings. In-person evaluations conducted by our staff will be administered while adhering to the South Dakota Department of Health guidelines for the safety of students and staff.

#### How will Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings take place?

We are committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Whether in-person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone, IEP teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings.

### Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations for the On-Line Learning option?

On-Line Learning students will have access to many accommodations that naturally occur in the virtual setting. In addition, teachers may be able to provide additional accommodations per a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan if the accommodation(s) is/are applicable to the On-Line Learning environment. In cases where accommodations are not available the IEP team will meet and amend the IEP.

#### **MEALS**

#### What steps will be taken to limit exposure in the school cafeteria?

Meals will be prepared with limited student choice. Disposable gloves will be provided so the salad bar can be offered at the junior high/high school. A staff member will be stationed at the salad bar at the elementary to serve the students. Hand sanitizer will be available in all dining areas.

#### Will students that "opt-in" to On-Line Learning be able to receive school meals?

Yes. Multiple meal Grab and Go Lunches/Breakfasts will be offered daily at your designated school. Paid meal prices will apply. Contact Colleen O'Malley, Child Nutrition Services Director, for more information.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

#### What steps will be taken to limit exposure on school buses?

Students and staff will be strongly recommended to wear masks on school buses. Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus. Buses will be disinfected before and after each route. Additional shuttles to/from Irene and Wakonda will be added to help with social distancing. Assigned seating and families will sit together.

#### ACADEMICS

#### Will parents and volunteers be allowed on campus?

During the school day, no outside visitors or parents will be allowed on campus (except as required for return to school programming). This topic will be revisited after the completion of the first semester.

#### Once I choose an option, can I change my mind later?

A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. However, we understand parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another, so we will provide opportunities to do so after the completion of the first semester.

#### Will each option offer the same classes?

Core classes will be available under both options. The On-Line Learning option will have elective learning opportunities; however, these may differ from courses available in the Traditional Model.

### Is the On-Line learning option identical to the distance learning we experienced during the final months of the 2019-20 school year?

The 2019 – 2020 school year had the classroom teacher in charge of the distance learning when the school could not have students on-site. The 2020-21 On-Line Learning model will be a different learning experience. K – 12 students will participate in on-line curriculum via Edgenuity and will be able to utilize EAGLE Fridays to access teacher(s) for help with questions.

#### Under the Traditional model, will elementary students be able to have recess?

Yes. Recess will be organized to emphasize cohort grouping and social distancing.

#### If I choose the On-Line Learning option will I need to have my own computer or laptop?

For students in grades K - 6, adequate access to a device and an internet connection is preferable. All students in grades 7-12 are issued laptops and will need internet access. Contact administration if you need assistance with internet accessibility and connectivity.

### Under the On-Line Learning option, will students be interacting with their teachers and classmates via online meeting platforms? Are they safe and secure?

Our school district utilizes online platforms for meetings with staff and students. The On-Line Learning option will be utilizing an on-line curriculum but will be able to interact with the Traditional teachers on EAGLE Fridays for extra help. Teachers and students will be expected to be familiar with all safety and security features and use them appropriately.

#### Will teachers be expected to teach in both the Traditional and On-Line Learning models?

No. Staff members will teach in-person on campus in the Traditional Learning model but will be available on EAGLE Fridays to help students on the On-Line Learning option.

#### Has the start date for the 2020-2021 school year changed?

No. We fully expect to start the school year on August 17.

#### Will Dual Credit courses be offered in the Traditional and On-Line learning models?

Yes. They will be offered through the Board of Regents.

#### What will elementary specials (Art, Music, Physical Education, and Etc.) scheduling look like?

Elementary students will engage in specials in the Traditional and On-Line Learning models; however, some specials will only be offered through the Traditional option and will have procedures in place to support the health, safety and wellness of students and staff. On-site specials may be altered in response to COVID-19 developments.

#### Will each learning model have a consistent Learning Management System to deliver instruction?

Yes. In the Traditional Learning Model, Google Classroom will be used to support face to face instruction at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. Seesaw may also be used to support on-site instruction and distance learning at the elementary school. Edgenuity will be the delivery system for students in grades K - 12 choosing the On-Line Learning option. Paper packets will also be posted online for K - 2 On-Line Learning students and assignments can be submitted via email or dropped off at school.

### If I select the Traditional Learning model and my child's classroom, school or the district must shift to emergency distance learning, who will be my child's teacher?

Your child will continue to be instructed by their regular teacher(s).

#### What is the difference between the On-Line Learning model and Home Schooling?

In the On-Line Learning model, students independently complete on-line curriculum created assignments and maintain contact with their teacher using web-based platforms and tools, email, and phone calls. Public School Exemption students (Home School students) may choose to utilize district curriculum materials but receive no Irene-Wakonda School District instructional support.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

#### Will activities still be offered during the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes, we will offer activities during the 2020-2021 school year.

#### Why are activities allowed and not assemblies, field trips, pep rallies, and dances?

Extra-curricular activities are a key component to providing a well-rounded educational experience. Research demonstrates activities positively impact the social and emotional well-being of students. Most activities have a smaller, more select crowd. At this time, only in-district facility use is permitted, which includes designated school sponsored extra-curricular activities.

#### Will participants be required to wear masks?

Not during competition or practice, but they will be strongly recommended to wear masks while riding the bus to and from events. The wearing of masks may reduce the potential need to quarantine due to close contact exposure. When traveling, host sites may have a masking requirement.

#### Will parents of the participants still be allowed to attend activities?

Yes. We encourage and support the use of masks by the parents.

#### Will the general public still be allowed to attend activities?

Yes. At this time the general public will be allowed to attend activities but encourage and support the use of masks by the spectators. We will also follow the South Dakota High School Recommendations in relation to fan attendance.

#### Will high school students still be allowed to attend activities?

Yes. We encourage and support the use of masks by the students.

#### If a student chooses the On-Line Learning option, are they able to participate in on-site extra-curricular activities?

Yes, but the On-Line Learning model is designed for families who don't yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to school on-site so participating in on-site extra-curricular activities contradicts the reason for taking the On-Line Learning model.