



IRENE-WAKONDA SCHOOL DISTRICT 13-3

“Return To School” Plan 2023 – 2024

The Irene-Wakonda School District takes great pride in providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff. We have developed the following plan and protocols for the 2023 – 2024 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 14th, 2023 at Level 0 with Traditional Learning – On-Campus.

Throughout the school year, our District will review and adjust the plan 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.

Looking forward to a great 2023 - 2024 school year,

Superintendent David Hutchison

Irene-Wakonda School District

"Return to School" Plan 2023 – 2024

LEVEL 0

No to low risk/spread

Education Delivery
Level 0 (On-Campus)



All students
will return to school
full-time for

**TRADITIONAL
LEARNING**

In school 4 days a week

- Masks optional-

LEVEL 1

Low to moderate risk/spread

Education Delivery
Level 1 (On-Campus +
Accommodations)



All students
will return to school
full-time for

**TRADITIONAL
LEARNING**

In school 4 days a week

-Masks recommended-

LEVEL 2

Moderate to high risk/spread

Education Delivery
Level 2 (Hybrid: On-
Campus and Remote)



All students
will return to school
with a possible mix of

**TRADITIONAL
AND REMOTE
LEARNING**

Potential of Alternate
Schedules

-Masks strongly recommended-

LEVEL 3

Severe risk/spread

Education Delivery
Level 3 (Remote)



All students
will be offered

**REMOTE
LEARNING
ONLY**

School buildings closed
to students and visitors

Irene-Wakonda School District
“Return to School” Plan 2023– 2024

The Irene-Wakonda School District “Return to School” Plan 2023 – 2024 was reviewed on May 10th, 2023. It will be reviewed on October 11th, 2023 and will be reviewed monthly at school board meetings as needed during the 2023 – 2024 school year.

Explanation of Level System

The District has developed the *Irene-Wakonda School District “Return to School” plan* 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(the District has offered our facilities to the area medical facility to utilize for a vaccination clinic). If the number of cases increases, the school district will move over a level unless more prevention is needed, 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: No to low cases in our school and 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 “Return to School” plan*. Masks are optional for students and staff in common areas or while working in close proximity to one another.

Traditional breakfast and lunch will be provided daily.

Level 1: Low to moderate cases have been identified in our school and in our community by the S.D. DOH. The S.D. DOH recommends school remains in session and to follow guidelines provided in the *Irene-Wakonda School District “Return to School” plan*.

Masks are recommended for students and staff. Increased social distance will be used where applicable.

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

Outside visitors will not be allowed in the building unless approved by the administration.

Level 2: Moderate to high cases have been identified in our school and in our community by the S.D. DOH. 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 “Return 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 are highly recommended for students and staff. Students and staff may be required to wear a mask during close proximity activities and in situations, the administration deems necessary.

Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will be served daily. 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 seating on the bus.

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 3: High to severe cases have been identified in our school and in our community by the S.D. DOH. 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 covered and the S.D. DOH has been contacted for guidance and recommendations.

Continuity of Educational Services

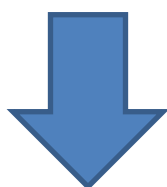
Learning Loss: The District will offer programs to help address learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs will include the continuation of (20) EAGLE Fridays scheduled throughout the school year and the new “Summer Learning” Program.

Students’ Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: Students will have access to resources offered through the District such as a full time K-12 guidance counselor or the option to seek counseling services through Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health. District staff and teachers will also receive training to better support students’ social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Staff Members’ Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: Staff members will have the opportunity to attend professional development seminars that focus on the social, emotional, and mental health of educators.

Special Education Services/Accommodations for Children with Disabilities: The Irene-Wakonda School District’s special education team is committed to providing educational opportunities for students with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible in alignment with public health guidelines. To address the unique needs of students with disabilities, the special education providers will continue to work collaboratively with parents and staff on an individualized basis to provide support and services in both the traditional and virtual settings. Questions regarding the services and accommodations provided can be directed to Special Education Director Deb Kinnunen.

Now on to the protocols for the “Return to School” plan!



IRENE-WAKONDA "RETURN TO SCHOOL" 2023 - 2024

Protocols	Level 0: Zero to low risk/spread "Normal Learning: On-Campus"	Level 1: Low to moderate risk/spread "Normal Learning plus accommodations: On-Campus"	Level 2: Moderate to high risk/spread "Hybrid Learning: On-Campus and On-Line/Packet Learning"	Level 3: Severe risk/spread "On-Line/Packet Learning"
Hand Washing Hand Sanitizing	Staff and students will wash their hands often with soap and water.	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 building.	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 building.	NA: On-line learning/packets district wide.
		Staff and students will avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.	Staff and students will avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.	
Touch Surface Cleaning: desks, door handles, electronic devices	All classrooms will be sanitized with electrostatic sanitizing machine as needed.	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.	Cleaning would be done by custodial staff.
			All staff may be responsible for all cleaning protocols.	
Masks	Optional for students and staff.	Recommended for students and staff to wear masks when entering the building.	Strongly recommended for students and staff to wear masks when entering the building.	NA: On-line learning/packets district wide. No students in building.
			Students and staff may be required to wear a mask during close proximity activities and in situations, the administration deems necessary.	
Pre-Screening for Students	Parents screen children at home for symptoms.	Parents screen children at home for temperature, runny nose, cough, and other symptoms.	Parents screen children at home for temperature, runny nose, cough, and other symptoms.	NA: On-line learning/packets district wide. No students in building.
		Students do not report to school if ill; MUST BE fever free without medication for 72 hours.	Students do not report to school if ill; MUST BE fever free without medication for 72 hours.	
		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 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: On-line learning/packets district wide. No students in building. Teachers will report and self-screen at home.
		MUST BE fever free without medication for 72 hours.	MUST BE fever free without medication for 72 hours.	
Busing	Follow normal protocols.	Students are assigned seats to maintain proper social distancing. Masks are recommended.	Students are assigned seats; seat families together to maintain proper social distancing. Masks are strongly recommend.	NA: On-line learning/packets district wide. No busing.
	Masks are optional.		Surfaces are wiped down between routes.	
		Hand sanitizer systems on all buses.	Hand sanitizer systems on all buses.	
Water Fountains	Water fountains are available.	Water fountains are available.	No mouth drinking from fountains.	NA: On-line learning/packets district wide. No students in building.
			Water bottles are provided by students; can be made available by school.	
Cafeteria/Meals	Traditional hot lunch service provided.	Traditional hot lunch service provided.	Traditional hot lunch service provided;	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 passing periods throughout the day to ensure enough time for touch-surface cleaning protocols to occur.	Longer passing periods throughout the day to ensure enough time for touch-surface cleaning protocols to occur.	NA: On-line learning/packets district wide.
			Students may stay in classrooms and teachers may move throughout the building to avoid students from passing from class to class.	
Entering (arrival)	Follow normal protocols. Students begin arrival no earlier than 7:40 am on school days..	Follow normal protocols, maintaining social distance, students begin arrival no earlier than 7:40 am on school days.	Breakfast served in classrooms. Follow typical protocols, maintaining social distance, students begin arrival no earlier than 7:40 am on school days, elementary students immediately enter building and go to classrooms.	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.	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
Response to sick students in school building (any sickness)	Normal cleaning procedures in place. Student will be isolated and parents will be contacted to take student	Normal cleaning procedures in place. Student will be isolated, placed in a mask, and parents will be contacted to take student home.	Normal cleaning procedures in place. Student will be isolated, placed in a mask, and parents will be contacted to take student home.	NA: On-line 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.	SDHSAA Guideline will be followed for all extra-curricular activities. Will follow SD DOH guidelines for travel.	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, playground/recess, study hall locations, Music/Band, hallway, locker rooms, gym)	Common Space may be used per normal building expectations.	Utilization of common space needs to be scheduled to ensure social 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.
			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. On-line learning/packets district wide.
			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.	

Guidelines of Close Contacts to a Positive COVID-19 Case

When staff, parents, and/or the South Dakota Department of Health notify the school of a positive COVID19 case, the SD DOH will conduct the close contact tracing.

Students will not be identified as a close contact if they were able to socially distance (6 feet away and/or less than 15 minutes) and/or properly wore a facial covering/mask during the time of close contact in school, on the school bus, or at school activities (participant/spectator). *Students vaccinated for COVID19 will not identified as a close contact.

Close Contacts in School, Outside of School, and in Household

- Students who have shown **no** COVID19 symptoms (remain asymptomatic) may return to school and will be required to properly wear a facial covering/mask in school, on the school bus, and at school activities (participant/spectator) for the next 5 days. Please continue to monitor for symptoms for the next 5 days.

Isolation Guidelines of a Positive COVID-19 Case



Students who have COVID-19 will be required to stay home from school for 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the date of the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons).

- After the 5 full days, students who have shown no COVID19 symptoms (asymptomatic) may return to school. Please continue to monitor for symptoms for the next 5 days and the students will be required to properly wear a facial covering/mask in school, on the school bus, and at school activities (participant/spectator), until the full quarantine has expired. Students who are confirmed to have COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 need to stay home from school for 5 full days regardless of their vaccination status.

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

	<p>RED Symptom Alone = Stay home from school until 24 hours after fever resolves.</p> <p>BLUE Symptom(s) Alone = Exclusion from school for COVID-19 not necessary, but may have an illness that would require exclusion from school.</p> <p>BLACK Exposure + RED Symptom or BLUE Symptom = Exclude from school until test result is negative OR if untested, at least 5 days since system onset (and 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved).</p>
	<p>If NO to <u>ALL</u> questions go to school.</p>

Thank you in advance for helping us create a safe environment for all students and staff!