



ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

An Update from the Superintendent

Good Afternoon,

We are almost two weeks into the 2021-22 school year and we are off to a great start. While the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to present unexpected challenges, I am proud to report that students are engaged in learning, our staff is energized and supporting students in a multitude of ways, and we feel the support and encouragement from our community each and every day.

I am writing to make sure you are aware of some of our practices related to COVID-19 and to share some changes we have made to provide you with as much information as possible during this time.

- **Mitigation Practices:** As we shared earlier this week, we are taking a number of steps in our buildings to ensure the safety staff and students. These include using proven air filtration techniques, engaging in thorough cleaning practices, and making masks available free-of-charge to those who choose to wear them. At the elementary school level where scheduling makes this feasible, students eat lunch with their classmates in the cafeteria. More information can be found in the [Return to Learn Addendum](#) available on our website.
- **Stay Home if Sick:** Per [Iowa Department of Public Health](#), individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and those demonstrating certain symptoms should not come to school until the designated period of time has passed. Please reach out to your child's health care provider if you have additional questions.
- **Possible Exposure Notification Process:** As many of you have no doubt experienced over these first few weeks of school, our buildings send letters to families when there is reason to believe their child(ren) may have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. To protect the privacy of the individuals who tested positive, we are not always able to be as specific in our explanation of where the exposure may have occurred as you may like. We appreciate your understanding of our desire to provide you with valuable information while maintaining confidentiality for our students and staff.
- **Pop Up Vaccination Clinic (Optional):** Thanks to our partners at Hy-Vee, we have been able to schedule our next pop up vaccination clinic. It will take place from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. on Saturday, September 11, 2021 in the cafeteria at Northview Middle School, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd. Please park on the west side near the football stadium.

This clinic is timed to support those who received their first vaccination at our pop up clinic on August 20, 2021. However, individuals twelve-years-of-age or older who need a first shot and/or those who have been approved for a Pfizer "booster" may also sign up. **To ensure Hy-Vee has sufficient supply available, if you would like to participate in this clinic, please sign up via [this link](#) by Wednesday, September 8th.**

- **Data Dashboard:** The [COVID-19 dashboard](#) has been updated to provide parents with positive case data, based on self-reported information. It will be updated once a week and date stamped. The updated [COVID-19 dashboard](#) can be found on our district website.
- **Free Counseling Services:** The district provides counseling resources available free of charge to students, staff, and families. More information is available through [EFR.org](#). Please contact your principal or counselor for more information.

As we head into the Labor Day weekend, I appreciate the open and honest way in which many of you have generously shared your input with me as I have made my transition to the Ankeny community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erick Pruitt

emailed 9.3.21

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