



Ankeny Community Schools Approved January 18, 2022

The Ankeny Community School District (“ACSD”) is committed to fulfilling its mission of preparing every learner for a lifetime of personal success. As we engage students in learning during the pandemic, the district will remain united in our commitment, passion, and vision in order to support students, families, and our staff in pursuit of the mission.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

INTRODUCTION

The following adjustment to ACSD's 2021-2022 Return-to-Learn Plan (the “Return to Learn Plan (1.18.22)”) is recommended to clarify the Ankeny Community School District (“ACSD”) policy regarding face coverings.

The amendments to ACSD's 2021-2022 Return-to-Learn Plan outlined below shall, if approved by the Board, take effect January 19, 2021 and remain in effect through June 2, 2022, unless, prior to that date the superintendent brings and the Board adopts an updated recommendation and/or the board takes further action on this matter to remain compliant with applicable law.

Use of Masks

INDOORS

Consistent and correct masking for all individuals age 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, visitors, and volunteers, regardless of vaccination status, is encouraged, but not required, indoors on ACSD property during the compulsory school day. Masking is encouraged, but is not required, during indoor events happening on ACSD property outside of the compulsory school day (e.g. during the Before and After School Program, at meetings, athletics, and activities).

The superintendent/designee shall develop administrative regulations to ensure consistent and equitable application of this policy.

OUTDOORS

Subject to the exceptions listed below, masking is not required when outdoors on ACSD property, including during the compulsory school day (e.g. at recess). Individuals who are not fully vaccinated, individuals who are immunocompromised, and individuals who have someone in their household who is immunocompromised are strongly encouraged to mask in crowded outdoor settings and/or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people on ACSD property.

The superintendent/designee shall develop administrative regulations to ensure consistent and equitable application of this policy.

BUSES

School bus drivers, monitors, and passengers are required to wear masks on school buses as defined by an Order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unless they meet the exceptions outlined by the CDC. This requirement shall remain in place so long as the CDC order is in effect. *This is not a change in practice.*

Visitors, Volunteers, and Assemblies

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Visitors and volunteers will be allowed in district facilities provided they comply with district policies related to visitors and volunteers.

SCHOOL-WIDE ASSEMBLIES

School-wide assemblies may be held at the discretion of the administration and in alignment with relevant district policies.

Tracking and Notification of Potential COVID-19 Exposure

CONTACT TRACING

ACSD will notify parents and guardians of students who have been identified as potentially in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Close contacts include someone who was within 6 feet for fifteen minutes of an infected person if masks were not worn correctly by both parties.

In the PK- 12 classroom setting, "the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time." ACSD will follow the guidance of the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Education to respond to positive cases of COVID-19 for students and staff.

LUNCH SEATING (PK-5)

To support more targeted notification regarding potential exposure, PK-5th grade students will continue to sit with their classes during lunch, physically distanced to the extent possible. Elementary school classes will be distanced from each other during lunch to the extent possible. *This is not a change in practice.*

LUNCH SEATING (6-12)

To support more targeted notification regarding potential exposure, secondary buildings will develop processes so communication related to potential exposure can be as precise as possible.

Continuation of Other 2021-22 Return-To-Learn Plan Mitigation Measures

The information below was included in the 2021-2022 Return-to-Learn Plan approved by the ACSD Board of Education in August 2021 and is aligned with the CDC's guidance for K-12 Schools. The ACSD will continue to support the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors by continuing these mitigation practices until further notice.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing will continue to be used as a mitigation measure to the extent possible within the school structures. *This is not a change in practice.*

TESTING & VACCINATION

ACSD will work with the Polk County Health Department and the Iowa Department of Public Health to have testing kits available in nurses' offices, subject to availability. Additionally, ACSD will partner with health care providers and/or pharmacies to support the vaccination of staff, students, and families in the community when possible. ACSD will comply with state and federal law related to vaccination and testing, as relevant.

VENTILATION

ACSD systems will allow for increased circulation of outdoor air through the HVAC systems in order to maximize fresh air. MERV-13 filters will be used in ACSD HVAC systems. *This is not a change in practice.*

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Custodial cleaning practices will focus on cleaning for health, which includes an emphasis on disinfecting surfaces where bacteria or viruses are most likely to be transmitted. *This is not a change in practice.*

HYGIENE PRACTICES

ACSD will encourage students and staff to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently and will increase the availability of hand sanitizer in common areas and classrooms. *This is not a change in practice.*

STAY HOME WHEN SICK

ACSD will follow public health directives related to individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or who are exhibiting symptoms staying home from school. Additionally, ACSD will urge staff and students to stay home if they are sick. *This is not a change in practice.*

COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES

ACSD will work with local public health authorities to determine what additional measures may be warranted. *This is not a change in practice.*

The Ankeny Community School District will also ensure continuity of services for academics, social emotional health, mental health, and other needs, including through:

- Multi-Tiered System of Supports for learning
- School Counselors and Social Workers
- School Nurses
- An expanded partnership with Employee and Family Resources