

ALTA-AURELIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN TO SCHOOL 2020-2021

Updated 11/1/2020

The State of Iowa has made it clear that schools are expected to return to in-person learning on our campuses unless our local Department of Public Health recommends a different plan. Based upon all the conversations that have ensued between our district administration and the appropriate agencies, we will follow these expectations, and at this time, we are preparing to return to in-person learning for our students.

Face Coverings

The use of a face covering by students and staff are required where six foot social distancing cannot occur. If there is a health reason for which students or staff believe they may not be able to wear a cloth face covering, a healthcare provider should be contacted. A written statement from a medical doctor on official letterhead / form shall suffice for an exemption. Students will be taught how to use face coverings, including cleaning and how to put on and off.

Mask Down Times can occur when: (Examples)

- students are socially distanced and stationary (6+ feet from others).
- the classroom is outdoors
- students are eating breakfast or lunch.

Mask Down Zones are (Examples):

- areas marked off in classrooms where students can safely, but temporarily, remove their mask (if possible).
- used with teacher approval. (Determined in individual classrooms)

Social Distancing Efforts

We will be implementing many efforts to socially distance our students as much as possible including but not limited to:

- Assessing and altering classroom seating arrangements to better utilize the entire classroom and create more space between our students.
- Altering lunch protocols, including increasing the number of lunch locations, spreading out lunch tables, and limiting seating at lunch tables.
- Eliminating large group student assemblies until further notice.
- Implementing high expectations for students to monitor their own social distancing. We will not condone students gathering in large groups.
- Marking tape and signs will be posted in key areas to assist with social distancing.
- Students will be taught how to sanitize their own desk and personal areas.

Cleaning & Sanitizing

Our efforts include but are not limited to the following:

- Routine cleaning procedures and schedules for facilities and transportation.
- Altering and increasing cleaning schedules and procedures to keep our classrooms sanitized on a daily basis and as needed.

- Disinfecting the following classroom items between each class period: desks/tables, door knobs/handles, chairs, light switches, pencil sharpeners.
- Disinfecting the following office items throughout the school day: door knobs/handles, chairs, counter tops, and plastic dividers.
- Implementing protocols of leaving classroom doors open whenever possible to minimize the number of hands touching door handles.

Administration, teachers and staff will teach and reinforce proper hand washing and sanitizing during key times throughout the day.

- Arrival and dismissal
- Before, during, and after preparing or eating food
- After using the bathroom
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching objects with bare hands that have been handled by other people

Students who are in the following classrooms with multiple sinks are afforded time to wash hands thoroughly. (locker room, Vocational Tech room etc.)

Health Services

Our efforts include but are not limited to:

- A full time nurse is available in both the Alta and Aurelia Buildings.
- Health inspections being completed weekly by the school nurse.
- An additional quarantine/isolation space provided in each building for symptomatic students and monitored by the school nurse.

Wellness

Our efforts include but are not limited to:

- All persons who are sick are expected to stay home. Those persons who become sick will be sent home.
- Hand sanitizer provided to students and staff in every classroom, at entrances, and throughout our building.
- Touch-free water bottle fill stations are placed throughout the building. Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles.
- Students should use their own materials.
- Non-essential visitors, volunteers, and outside groups will be limited.
- Any parent picking up a student at school will call the office on arrival and your child will be brought to your vehicle.
- The CDC recommends coughing/sneezing into your mask, if no, turn away from people and cough/sneeze into your elbow

Transportation

Our efforts to transport students to and from school include but are not limited to:

- Encouraging parents who can arrange to transport their children to and from school to please do so, in an effort to reduce the number of students on buses.
- Applying hand sanitizer as students and drivers enter the bus when possible.
- Recommended face coverings for students and drivers.
- Students will sit in every other seat (households may sit together).
- Disinfecting our buses between morning and afternoon routes.
- Prohibiting food or drink on the bus.

Arrival / Drop Off Procedures

The doors to each building will open at 7:45 am.

Students who are not eating breakfast and arrive at school between 7:45 am - 8:00 am should report to the high school gym in Alta or homeroom in Aurelia.

Students who arrive at school between 8:00 am -8:15 am should report directly to their first period class. Students who arrive at school after 8:15 am should enter the building through the main office entrance; all other door locations will be locked after 8:15 am.

*Face coverings need to be worn as students enter into the school building.

Breakfast

- The doors to each building will open at 7:45 am.
- Students should enter through the main entrances in the morning.
- Breakfast will be served every morning.
- Students need to wear their face covering while going through the breakfast line.
- Parents are encouraged to pay for meals online through JMC.

Lunch

- Students will report to their assigned lunch location prior to being dismissed to the lunch line and will return to the assigned location to eat for the remainder of the lunch period.
- Students need to wear their face covering while going through the lunch line.
- Students may take their face covering off once seated for lunch and social distance is maintain
- Parents may not eat lunch with students in school. Parents are encouraged to pay for meals online through JMC.

Departure / Pick Up Procedures

- School dismissal will be staggered to accommodate busing and social distancing.
- Parents are encouraged to pick up students to help with bus capacity.
- Face coverings need to be worn until students exit the school building.
- Students will need to exit the building directly at the end of day unless they have extracurricular activities or a meeting with a teacher.

Activity Transportation

- Two buses will be used when needed for activity trips.
- Students will sit every other seat on the bus (Households may sit together)
- Face covering will be worn by the driver and students.
- The bus will be disinfected once the students are dropped off.
- Parents will be allowed to transport students to and from the activity.

*This worked very well with baseball and softball this past summer. The students, coaches and drivers did a great job. It will work this school year.

Students that Select the Online Option

Students that select the online/virtual option will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities until they have returned to face to face instruction at

Alta-Aurelia Community School District. The online/virtual option is solely for the purpose of COVID-19 concerns and the possibility of contracting the virus at school or during school events. All extracurricular activities are on school property with students and staff that have been in school the entire day. The same risk of contracting COVID-19 exists both during and after school while practices and performances are being conducted. This policy is for the safety and respect of all students and staff.

This is a district plan that will be subject to change at any time. We will do what we believe is in the best interest of our students and staff. Each principal will provide specific protocols that pertain to the physical setup and needs of their individual building.