



**Johnston Community School District**

**2021-22 Health & Safety  
Mitigation Guide**



## 2021-22 JCSD Mitigation Planning Document

As you begin to look through this document, we want to share these key points about the Johnston Community School District Return To Learn Plan - and subsequent Mitigation Planning Document - that guide our response to our district's state of health.

1. The JCSD plan is guided by state laws ([House File 847](#), [Senate File 160](#)) which prevent schools from mandating face masks and requires school districts in Iowa to provide on-site learning.
2. Per [guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health](#), Johnston Schools will treat COVID-19 similar to influenza and other [common child illnesses](#).
3. The JCSD Return To Learn plan calls for the school setting to return to a pre-COVID, face-to-face operation focused on maximizing instruction, collaboration, and student learning.
4. Families should anticipate that their child may be exposed to communicable diseases and viruses at school. Elementary schools will send classroom notifications to families to indicate possible close contact when there is a positive case reported in the classroom.
5. Due to health department changes in quarantine requirements, JCSD will not contact trace to identify individuals as "close contacts" who may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting. However, elementary schools will send classroom notifications to families to indicate possible close contact when there is a positive case in the classroom.
6. Per guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health, students who believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 in or outside of school are not required to quarantine and should monitor for symptoms.
7. Curriculum and Instruction will be provided on-site. Johnston Schools will not provide a remote learning option for students in 2021-22.
8. JCSD will publish data, via the district website and updated once a week, on the number of active COVID-19 positive cases.

### Statement on Facial Coverings in the Johnston Community School District

#### [Iowa Code, House File 847, Sec. 28](#)

Facial Coverings. The board of directors of a school district, the superintendent or chief administering officer of a school or school district, and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall not adopt, enforce, or implement a policy that requires its employees, students, or members of the public to wear a facial covering for any purpose while on the school district's or accredited nonpublic school's property unless the facial covering is necessary for a specific extracurricular or instructional purpose, or is required by section 280.10 or 290.11 or any other provision of law.

## **What does this look like in Johnston schools?**

As applied in an everyday sense, this law (signed May 20, 2021) means that the district or any of the schools cannot enforce or require students or staff to wear a facial covering/mask on school property. Since this law came into effect, masking is 100% optional and supported on all district properties.

With the passage of House File 847, JCSD COVID-19 teams ended contact tracing and positive-case/close contact notification. Effective for the 2021-22 school year, COVID-19 is classified as a childhood illness per the Iowa Department of Public Health guidelines.

The health and safety of the JCSD students, staff, and families are first and foremost in planning for the 2021-22 school year. The plans presented in this guide represent district-level work and mitigation strategies, based on current health conditions in our community. We are all ready to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind and, by many accounts, we are on the way. But much work remains to be done. By taking some basic steps, such as getting vaccinated and listening to the public health experts, together we can get the 2021-22 school year off to a safe, healthy start.

Within the JCSD school system, there exists a sizable percentage of our student population who are under the age of 12 and not yet eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. We are paying close attention to local, county, statewide, and health data within our schools and will closely monitor any change in health scenarios that may affect our students.

With a watchful eye on needs and health metrics, please note the school district may increase or dial back mitigation strategies to best keep our students and staff as safe as we can. Whenever possible, we will communicate any changes to our students, staff, and parent population. Families can expect building specific mitigation communications to come prior to school starting. As long as COVID-19 remains present in our community, it is expected that cases will affect students and staff at school. We ask parents and guardians to continue to monitor their child's health on a daily basis. We appreciate your support as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

## **JCSD 2021-22 School Mitigation Recommendations from PK-12 Administration**

The Johnston Community School District commits all district resources to provide students and staff with high-quality education.

- Masks are optional for students and staff members. These decisions are made by families and individuals, and we support these decisions. At this time, [the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.](#) In Iowa, it is now against the law for schools to require face masks. Johnston encourages people to listen to the health experts to keep themselves and others healthy.

- The CDC mandates facial coverings (masks) on public transportation, which includes school buses. Read the official guidance here:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>
- Buildings will determine their arrival and dismissal patterns to account for large numbers of students and reduce congestion as much as possible.
- No contact tracing on the part of the district will occur. COVID-19 is considered a childhood illness per Iowa Department of Public Health guidance.
- Cafeteria seating/serving will resume. Breakfast will be eaten in the cafeteria or grab and go and eaten in other parts of the building. This is determined by each building.
- Schools will hold optional, in-person Meet the Teacher and Back to School events. Individual schools may also offer teacher and/or school videos. New family orientation will be replaced by a welcome video from each building shared with new families. At Johnston High School, families will meet with school counselors on an individual basis.
- Visitors are allowed to enter the building near the front office instead of meeting outside of the building. Visitors will be allowed to drop off items, drop off/pick up students, etc.
  - This practice applies to KTC as well - parents are allowed into the building to sign-in/out their students.
- Parents are not allowed to walk students to the classroom at the start of the day, including the first days of school.
- Volunteers will be on an invitation-only basis from a teacher/program (background checks required per district volunteer policies)
  - Includes in classroom guest speakers
  - Includes other JCSD staff who bring in animals to share with classrooms
- IEP/504 meetings may be held either in person or via Zoom.

**School events that could be held when health metrics indicate it is safe to do so:**

- School-wide assemblies-students/families may opt out of participation. This may include Meals from the Heartland packaging events for schools that want to host these.
- Classroom parties at the elementary schools can be held twice per school year, at a time determined by the school.
- Spring elementary school BBQs may be held, similar to past practice; visitors would be allowed to participate.
- Elementary school field days in the spring may occur.
- Off-site field trips may resume.
- Parent teacher conference format: Buildings will communicate the structure of parent/teacher conferences. An opportunity for both in person and via Zoom will be available.
- The reintroduction of student-purchased recorders in 3rd and 4th grade music classes.

**Events/Procedures/Operations that will resume:**

- Regular class schedule

- Utilize student common areas
- Computer labs are set up and used in all buildings.
- Rehearsals and performances for vocal/band, plays, musicals, and show choir will resume.
- Team/choir dinners allowed with individually boxed/wrapped meals. Potluck-style sharing and homemade treats are not allowed.
- Clubs are able to meet in person or via Zoom.
- School socials and dances
- PTOs or other parent groups may meet either in person or via Zoom.
- Water fountains will be turned on and available for use in hallways and classrooms. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles
- Maintain hand sanitizing stations and encourage regular hand washing
- Regular classroom seating practices will be followed.
- Playground procedures will resume; students will not be cohorted.
- Students are allowed to share classroom materials.
- Birthday treats will be resumed per past practice, which vary by building. Homemade treats will not be allowed.
- Sophomores will return to closed campus for lunch and study halls
- College visitors/Trades/Union representatives can resume in person or via Zoom

## **Standard Health Regulations and Procedures in Schools**

Parents or guardians and a child's medical providers are responsible for the care of an ill student. School nurses and health service staff provide support to families in their responsibility of caring for their children. The school health offices are staffed by a registered nurse.

**If your child is ill or not feeling well, please keep them home.** Parents are requested to call the elementary health office and secondary attendance lines when their child is tardy, ill, or will not be at school for other reasons.

## **Infectious and Communicable Diseases**

Infectious diseases are caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi or parasites and can be spread from one individual to another. General notification about communicable diseases are made when there are spikes in a grade level/building site to inform parents about pertinent information. Please encourage good hygiene and regular hand washing at home to help combat communicable diseases.

Parents may be asked to pick up their child from school under the following circumstances:

- has tested positive for a communicable disease/virus. Your school nurse will advise you about your child's return to school. Please note, schools do not test for any type of communicable disease/virus;
- the child has a fever of 100.4 degrees F or above;
- the child is vomiting and/or has diarrhea;

- the child has a rash that may be disease related;
- the child does not feel well enough to return to the classroom;
- the child has a persistent cough.

Parents should not send their child to school if he or she:

- has a fever of 100.4 degrees or more. The student should stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal (98.6 degrees F) without fever-reducing medication;
- has vomited or had diarrhea or unexplained abdominal pain. The student should stay home until 24 hours after the last episode;
- has a rash that may be disease-related or from an unknown cause;
- has swelling, redness, tenderness, or discharge from eyes;
- has a severe cold and/or persistent cough;
- has tested positive for a communicable disease/virus. Your school nurse will advise you about your child's return to school.

## **Building and Grounds Mitigation Recommendations**

The Johnston Community Schools Building and Grounds department is dedicated to providing clean, safe, and well-maintained environments that support all educational activities. Custodial Services cleaning practices focus on cleaning for health, which includes an emphasis on disinfection of health sensitive areas, where bacteria or viruses are most likely to be transmitted.

- The Building and Grounds department will procure all PPE for the district (masks, shields, gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes).
- Buildings & Grounds crew will continue to over-ventilate buildings for optimal air flow. Custodians will monitor air levels closely to ensure humidity levels remain stable within each building.
- Assess the most effective way to utilize custodial staff members for disinfecting and change custodial schedules accordingly.

## **Cleaning and Disinfection Practices**

The disinfection of health sensitive areas is a priority and this work is required at all times. The greatest health-sensitive areas are disinfected a **minimum** of once per day. This disinfection could be done by a building custodian or other staff members.

- Classrooms (In addition to daily custodial cleaning, all classrooms are stocked with hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes for frequent use)
- Media Centers
- Health Offices
- Cafeterias
- Locker Room

- Weight Rooms

When we discuss clean buildings, three words must be defined;

1. Cleaning (Removing germs)
2. Sanitizing (Reducing germs)
3. Disinfecting (Killing germs)

Cleaning is just the first step in a complete process, but it is a vital step that cannot be skipped. Even if you intend to sanitize or disinfect the area, cleaning away visible dirt dust, fingerprints and other marks beforehand makes it easier and more effective to remove microscopic germs with more intensive methods later.

A step beyond cleaning, sanitization kills a greater amount of bacteria and is required for any surface that comes into contact with food. According to the CDC definition, a sanitizer is “a chemical that kills 99.999% of the specific test bacteria in 30 seconds under the conditions of the test. Therefore, while sanitizers can kill the majority of certain kinds of bacteria, sanitization techniques and products alone cannot eliminate all viruses.

Disinfecting a surface means that chemicals are being used to kill germs. Disinfecting does not necessarily mean that dirt, germs, and impurities are being removed from the surface, but by killing the germs, the risk of spreading infection is lowered.

The key difference between sanitizing and disinfecting is the type of chemical involved and the length of time it is left on a surface. For many disinfectants, 10 minutes is the appropriate dwell time. However, be sure to read instructions on the chemical product to ensure proper disinfection.

To keep a hygienic and safe environment, make sure to complete the full regimen of all techniques from cleaning to sanitizing and disinfecting, as appropriate.

### **EPA Approved Chemicals**

Our custodial staff use the EnvirOx/Hillyard system that is an (EPA APPROVED) GREEN product.

JCSD uses EnvirOx H2orange2 Hyper Concentrated to sanitize all health sensitive areas (Heavy Duty Red/5 minute dwell time EPA # 69268-1). When used properly H2orange2 Hyper Concentrate 112 is EPA registered to kill 99.9% of specified viruses (Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2, Influenza A2/Japan and Hiv-1). EnvirOx Non-Acid Disinfectant #10 is the next step to disinfect, which has the ability to kill germs and bacteria and has been approved by EPA, to have killing properties against Covid19.

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. The formulation is a concentrated product, requiring dilution. The product carries the claim on the EPA Master Label.

### **Cleaning Schedule**

The table below outlines standard custodial practices utilized by custodians in the Johnston Community School District.

Immediately	Bodily Fluid Cleanup
Daily	Clean and disinfect desk and table tops
Daily	Glasswork-Doorway
Daily	Empty all waste baskets/Clean and disinfect
As needed	Spot clean carpet
Daily+ (for high use)	Clean and disinfect all sinks, drinking fountains, soap stations and paper towel dispensers
Daily	Thoroughly clean and disinfect all restrooms
Daily	Disinfect light switches and door knobs
Daily	Vacuum, sweep and mop floors
Daily	Clean and disinfect locker fronts
Weekly	Wash trash cans as needed



Weekly	Clean windows and sills
Weekly	Clean and dust window blinds
Weekly	Clean white boards
Quarterly	Disinfect entire buildings (Spring/Winter/Summer)
Quarterly	Clean all light fixtures
Quarterly	Clean all air vents
Quarterly	Clean all blinds
Quarterly	Clean carpets
Annually	Scrub and extract all carpets
Annually	Wash all windows inside and out
Annually	Restore all tile floors
Annually	Clean baseboards

Annually	Strip and wax floors
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### **Non-Touch Equipment**

The Johnston Community School District is committed to using non-touch equipment for the safety of our custodians and staff. JCSD uses Kai Vacs (rest rooms), spray bottles (desk, countertops, windows, sinks, etc.), floor scrubbers, backpack vacuum cleaners, and pressurized hand pumps for disinfecting.

### **Nutrition Mitigation Recommendations**

- Employees assigned to work in kitchens will practice strict sanitation guidelines set by USDA, DHS, CDC and Health Department.
- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, food items may be self served. Utensils and serving lines will be sanitized between serving periods.
- Elementary school children will not use the key pads. Due to the waiver which allows all children a free breakfast and lunch meal each day, the daily meal count form is allowable (paper tick sheet). Secondary students will be provided a badge with a bar code to scan or if they choose they can use the key pad. There is sanitizer available at all cashier stations for anyone to use.
- Students are required to practice safe hygiene practices such as hand washing before and after food consumption.
- Enforce a strict no sharing policy.
- All food staff will adhere to proper hand washing before and after handling of food. Gloves will be worn during food preparation and handling.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. Tables will be cleaned and disinfected after each group.
- Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves.
- No parent visitors for lunch in the cafeteria; parents are allowed to pick children up and take them out to lunch
- All students with a food allergy should contact their allergist to update any action plans and submit to the school
- Families should review their 504, IEP plans and submit any updates based on changes from allergist, physician, etc. so school can accommodate any changes.

## **Transportation Mitigation Recommendations**

- Normal cleaning of buses on a daily basis to include high touch areas.
- The CDC mandates facial coverings (masks) on public transportation, which includes school buses. Read the official guidance here:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

## **Staff-related Mitigation Recommendations**

- Staff attire expectations will return, with business casual attire expected Monday through Thursday and jeans allowed on Fridays/special occasions.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) allows individuals to request reasonable accommodations. A reasonable accommodation is a change in the work environment that allows an individual with a disability to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job, perform a job's essential functions, or enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment. The district cannot ask employees if they have disabilities that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19. Therefore, we advise employees who feel they need a reasonable accommodation to initiate the interactive process to which they are entitled by notifying their immediate supervisor and Melissa Jacobson in Human Resources at [melissa.jacobson@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:melissa.jacobson@johnston.k12.ia.us).
- Staff should continue to sanitize the time clocks after use with a cleaning wipe.
- Protective barriers can be requested and may be available based on specific need(s).
- Staff may return to normal use of breakrooms and lounges.
- Prior to coming to the workplace, staff should perform self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19 and/or other communicable diseases. If symptoms of COVID-19 are present, please contact your immediate supervisor for further instruction.
- Staff should continue to report symptoms of COVID-19, exposures to COVID-19, and a positive COVID-19 test result to their immediate supervisor.
- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that mandated additional time off for COVID-19 reasons expired December 31, 2020. The district extension of some of the FFCRA provisions expired after last school year. Employees should use their sick leave for absences related to COVID-19.
- Last year, the district authorized employees to use all of their 2020-2021 earned sick leave balance for family illness. That authorization has expired and staff should use sick leave and family sick leave in the manner stated by the employee handbook.