



NEWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 24, 2020

Cardinal Families:

The Newton Community School District is excited to announce that we will be reopening our doors on December 1, 2020 for students to return to their classrooms. Our request to the Iowa Department of Education to remain in “temporary continuous / remote learning” expires at the end of the day this Wednesday and I will not be requesting to extend it at this time.

As promised, I have continued to look at our local, county, and state data each day and we are in a much better position than we were three weeks ago. The county positivity rate is down to 18.5% from around 22%. The averages from the past week for numbers of students and staff self-isolated due to testing positive for COVID and for numbers of students and staff quarantined waiting for test results have fallen well over 20% from the previous two week averages. There is also a downward trend in these numbers over the past two weeks. Using all of this information, as well as guidelines from the Department of Education, a decision has been made to return.

According to the updated Return to Learn Plan, parents can opt to have their student learn remotely if the student or someone in the household is health compromised due to COVID, or if the student has demonstrated success in remote learning throughout the start of the school year. The building administrators have been contacting parents of students with changes in the learning models for individual students. If you have questions, please contact the building your student attends.

The Newton Community School District would also like to remind everyone that masks or gaiters are required by everyone in our buildings unless the individual has a medical waiver. We will also be continuing our cleaning and disinfecting efforts as well as procedures for social distancing. We ask for your cooperation and support by reminding your students of these items daily.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving break. Enjoy your time away from school work. The Cardinal Staff greatly appreciates your efforts to help support your student’s education. We will see them again on December 1, 2020.

Yours truly,

Tom Messinger

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