

AHSTW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Proudly serving the communities of Avoca, Hancock, Shelby, Tennant, and Walnut

AHSTW Community District is located in Avoca, IA and our district covers 4 counties: Pottawattamie, Cass, Harrison, and Shelby.

On August 20, 2020 we returned to school with all students in person each day. We are very proud of our mitigation efforts and things had been going well. In addition to our efforts, our county positivity rates have reduced as the year has gone on and are currently between 7 and 10% depending on the county. AHSTW Community School District had also not had a diagnosed case of COVID-19 in our district until Sunday, September 20, 2020.

On September 20, 2020, our first cases were identified by Pottawattamie Public Health and we quickly took action. Our tracing led us to needing to quarantine nearly 35 students and staff. Then on Thursday, September 24, it was shared with us that 6 new cases required us to trace at a greater level [over 120 students and staff]. Upon completion of our tracing procedures, we became aware that our percent of students no longer in our building due to illness or quarantine will rise to 25% and 30% in our intermediate and high schools. However, we have many students and families who cross over between all three building levels and we are a K-12 building.

In addition to the high numbers of quarantine, we also have numerous tests waiting to be returned. This indicates a larger potential for additional tracing and illnesses. In fact, we will be tracing 2 additional cases reported to us over the weekend.

Since we have returned to school with in-person for all 5 days per week, we have elected to move to virtual learning for the week of Sept. 28 – October 2. This will allow us to separate students and reduce to opportunities for continued exposures. This delivery model will provide time to monitor student quarantine dates and hopefully will give us the opportunity to return on October 5. However, we are uncertain of our ability to return if our outbreak continues.

So, it is for that reason that AHSTW Community School District is applying for ability to move to virtual learning for up to a 2-week period of time. The virtual learning period would begin on October 5 and possibly end on October 16, if needed.

Please know we understand that imposition of this action puts on our families and will return to an in-person learning, as soon as possible. However, we are certain we need the flexibility moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mr. Darin Jones

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Mr. Darin Jones, Superintendent
Mr. Mike Embrock, High School Principal
Mrs. Cristin Rold, Intermediate Principal
Mrs. Sarah Kock, Primary Principal
Mr. Ryan Smith, Technology Director
Mrs. Kelly Allen, School Business Official

AHSTW Community School District