



December 1, 2020

Director Lebo,

Ames Community School District is committed to bringing students and staff back to a face-to-face instructional model as soon as safely possible. While we are requesting permission to remain in 100% online learning, we will be monitoring the data daily with the hope of returning before the conclusion of the two week period that is being requested. Because we submitted our application that was approved today, December 1st, with incorrect data, we are resubmitting this request with our current metrics. The Story County positivity is 11%, but this positivity level may not represent community spread. A more accurate measure of community spread for Story County is the 14-day average number of new cases per day per 100,000 (14-day new case rate). Our current 14-day new case rate is 74.6, which is higher than when our previous waiver was approved for K-8 (65.2). This spread has resulted in significant staff and student absenteeism, causing an inability to cover classrooms in our buildings. While we were granted permission to go 100% virtual PK-12, we are now requesting permission for an additional two weeks, beginning on November 30, 2020, and concluding on December 14, 2020. During this time, the District will monitor the staff absentee rate and the daily new case rate. We anticipate moving to Hybrid learning before concluding the two-week approval period if our absentee rate and community spread continue to decline.

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