



Ann Lebo, Director
Iowa Department of Education
Grimes Office Building, 2nd Floor
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

November 19, 2020

Dear Director Lebo,

As you know, we have been closely and continuously monitoring the COVID-19 situation in our schools and community.

Our hybrid learning model continues to work as designed. Our ability to operate this model from the beginning of the school year through Thanksgiving is a testament to the staff and students who have continued to make this model successful. At the same time, we have seen significant spikes in COVID-19 cases following holidays and want to be prepared for a spike following Thanksgiving.

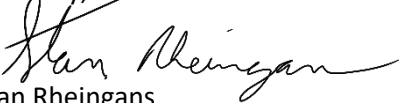
As a preventative measure against any post-Thanksgiving spike in cases impacting students and staff, we are officially submitting this request to move to remote learning for all students for one week from Monday, Nov. 30, through Friday, Dec. 4. Our intent is to return to hybrid learning on Monday, Dec. 7.

This move is designed to provide an extra layer of protection to students and staff, as the vast majority of individuals will exhibit symptoms within 10 days following exposure. This move to remote learning will provide a 12-day break from in-person instruction and 10-days post-Thanksgiving. We believe that this short inconvenience will have great long-term benefit in allowing us to continue in-person learning moving forward.

Our ongoing mitigation strategies, combined with enhanced preventative restrictions across the county/state and optimistic news on the horizon regarding vaccine development, will allow this break to set us up to move forward with as little disruption as possible in the future.

Thank you for playing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and for your ongoing support of our students.

Sincerely,


Stan Rheingans
Superintendent of Schools