



Independence Community School District

1207 1st Street West
Independence, Iowa 50644

(319) 334-7400 Phone
(319) 334-7404 Fax

Russell Reiter ♦ Superintendent
Stephen Noyes ♦ Director of Technology

Laura J. Morine ♦ Director of Finance/Board Secretary
Erin Burmeister ♦ Director of School Improvement

To Whom It May Concern:

Independence Community School District wishes to seek approval to move to our Emergency Closure Continuous Learning Plan for all buildings in the District. Our decision to move to remote learning is based upon the following data:

Buchanan County has had a 14-day positivity rate of greater than 15% since the beginning of November. Currently our positivity rate is 23.1% and has been on the rise. At times we have struggled to cover classes and provide supervision for students due to staff members testing positive, or quarantining due to a family member illness. Currently we have 11 staff members in this position. Today, we have 13% of students, expected to be face to face, absent, with two of our buildings over 20%. In addition, we are awaiting the results of students and staff that could impact this absentee rate due to close contact and the need to quarantine.

Finally, our nursing staff has reported that our local hospital is at or nearing capacity. With an increase in community spread and a hospital that is at or nearing capacity we believe that emergency closure is in the best interest of our District and our community. Our local Buchanan County Public Health supports our request.

We are requesting permission to move grades PK-12 to our Emergency Closure Continuous Learning Plan beginning Monday, November 30, 2020. We plan to return to hybrid for 7-12 and on-site for PK-6 on Monday, December 7, 2020, should data support this transition. We are not in attendance on December 4th, so the total number of days would be 4. We currently meet the Iowa Department of Education metrics to request permission for remote learning as our county 14-day positivity rate is 24.3%.

Sincerely,

Russ Reiter
Superintendent ICSD