


Dave Koch, Director

To: Iowa Department of Education
Iowa Department of Public Health

From: Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager 
Johnson County Public Health

Date: January 4, 2021

Re: Support for Remote Learning of the Iowa City Community School District

On July 17, Governor Reynolds issued a proclamation that requires the Iowa Department of Education (IDE), in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), to approve the temporary move to primarily remote learning for an entire building or district because of public health conditions.

On July 30, IDE and IDPH released a Return to Learn plan outlining positivity and absenteeism rates as benchmarks to determine various Return to Learn Models. As of January 4th, Johnson County's 14-day positivity rate is 11% and our rolling average is beginning to trend upward. This current volume of cases has a wide age range and our local disease investigations continue to see illnesses occurring without known exposures indicative of community transmission.

Our concern over cold weather driving small or large social gatherings indoors, fatigue among the general public to stay vigilant to prevent transmission through personal mitigation measures, and the anticipated increase of cases due to the recent holiday gatherings are also factors that may increase transmission.

Johnson County Public Health writes in support of the Iowa City Community School District's request for a waiver for 100% remote learning. By granting this waiver, you will be assisting in reducing the likelihood that the virus will find its way into the K-12 school population, which in turn will keep our community safer.

Cc: Iowa City Community School District