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**Dave Koch, Director**

To: Iowa Department of Education  
Iowa Department of Public Health

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

Date: November 18, 2020

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

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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 November 18, Johnson County's 14-day positivity rate has increased to 16.7%. Johnson County daily case count average has been over 100 positive cases per day since the beginning of November. This current surge of cases has a wide age range and indicative of increasing community transmission.

Our concern over cooler weather driving gatherings indoors and fatigue among the general public to stay vigilant to prevent transmission are also factors that will increase transmission. Our local disease investigations see exposures leading to illness in a variety of settings.

Due to these factors, Johnson County Public Health writes in support of the Iowa City Community School District's request for a waiver to move to 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 population, which in turn will keep the community safer.

Cc: Iowa City Community School District