



IOWA

Department of Education

Ann Lebo, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Via Electronic Mail Only

October 16, 2020

Brian Horn
Superintendent
Madrid Community School District

Dear Superintendent Horn:

Thank you for your request for permission to provide primarily remote or continuous learning for Madrid Elementary School, dated October 15, 2020.

Governor Reynolds's proclamation of disaster emergency, most recently renewed today, allows the Iowa Department of Education ("Department") to approve instruction through primarily remote learning, "in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health," based on "public health conditions in the building or district." The guidance on selecting the appropriate Return-to-Learn model released July 30, 2020, was established in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health. As of October 16, 2020, the fourteen-day positivity rate in Boone County is 8.1 percent, in Dallas County is 7.6 percent, and in Polk County is 6.7 percent.

While the positivity rate does not meet or exceed the positivity guidelines contained in Department guidance, other factors, including staff positivity, counsel in favor of granting this request. You report that nine elementary school staff tested positive for COVID-19, out of a staff of 44. The school staff are through multiple grades and service areas. Your district has implemented primarily remote learning for the week of October 12, and you request an additional three days of remote learning. Your application states: "These numbers have caused staffing issues and raise concerns that the spread will continue to additional staff and students without an opportunity to allow students and staff to utilize remote learning and allow the current staff outbreak to subside."

This request is modest and reasonable in light of the circumstances. After consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health and considering the facts as a whole, the Department GRANTS your request for Madrid Elementary School for the period requested: October 12, 2020, to October 21, 2020.

In light of this determination, the Department expects that your district will temporarily cease in-person extracurricular activities for Madrid Elementary School for the duration of the period requested, and this approval is conditioned upon satisfying that expectation. Extracurricular activities may continue on an online or virtual basis.

Please let me know if I can answer any additional questions or if I can provide assistance as you proceed with your future plans.

Creating excellence in education through leadership and service

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Lebo".

Dr. Ann Lebo
Director