

November 23, 2020,

The Linn-Mar Community School District is requesting a move to virtual learning for 10 school days. This will run from Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 11, 2020. The following information supports the rationale behind this change in learning format:

- Linn County positivity rate is 20.3%. This rate has been over 20% for two consecutive weeks.
- We have 23 staff and 40 students currently identified as positive for COVID
- We have 108 staff and 593 students quarantined at this time
- Staffing concerns include over 1/3 of our nutrition services department is out due to COVID. We do not have enough staff to safely and efficiently serve school lunches. Our transportation department is also extremely thin. In fact we have no mechanics available at this time.
- We have a severe shortage of substitutes. We are averaging only 64% sub fill rate for teachers and 29% sub fill rate for our classified staff.
- Student absentee rate is 4.32% when not counting students in quarantine. The student absentee rate is 11.50% when counting students in quarantine.
- We saw a substantial increase in COVID cases in the two weeks following Halloween. We are concerned that we will see a similar spike following Thanksgiving.

We are prepared to move to virtual learning because our staff is currently teaching kids in a hybrid model where ½ of their class is in person and the other ½ is at home where they zoom into the classroom. All of our students have school issued laptops and they have all been provided internet access if they do not already have such access.

We feel this model of learning gives us a chance to get our staff back in place so we can hold school in a safe manner.

Please let me know if you need any additional information from us at this time.

Shannon Bisgard

Linn-Mar Superintendent