



## ***Red Oak Community School District***

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***Red Oak, Iowa 51566***

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November 9, 2020

Dr. Lebo,

The Red Oak Community School District requests a waiver to temporarily provide remote learning for all students, from November 12 through November 25. The fourteen-day positivity rate in Montgomery County is currently at 20.9%. The positivity rate in Page County is 33.7%. Among students participating in face-to-face learning, we are experiencing student absentee rates of 15.3% (10.8% at Inman Elementary and 21.0% at Red Oak Jr/Sr High School). As many as 10.5% of these absences have been attributed directly to COVID-19, but many more are unconfirmed. Many parents have already begun keeping their children home due to concerns stemming from the increase in cases. The current surge is making it exceedingly difficult to ensure effective teaching and learning in a brick and mortar setting.

Some of our most significant challenges stem from the availability of teachers and support personnel. The number of staff members who have tested positive or who are forced to quarantine due to exposure is on the rise. We currently have eight certified staff members who have tested positive for the coronavirus and others awaiting test results. At least nine additional teachers have been in close contact with confirmed cases of COVID-19, but they have yet to manifest symptoms. We have at least four teachers who are without childcare because their provider was forced to close due to COVID-19. Today a total of 16 teachers or nearly 18% of our instructional staff were absent. With very few substitutes available to cover their classes we struggled to serve students. We face similar challenges with bus drivers and custodial staff.

We ask that you grant our waiver request to give our students and staff an opportunity to recover from the current spike in the coronavirus. We have already taken steps to suspend all extra and co-curricular activities. We hope to resume normal operations following the Thanksgiving break.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Lorenz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Lorenz

Superintendent

Red Oak Community Schools

Date:	Number of Face-to-Face Learners	COVID-19 Related Absences			Non COVID-19 Related Absences	Total Absences	% COVID-19 Related Absences	% Total Absences
		Positive Cases	Students in Isolation	Total COVID-19 Absences				
<b>11/9/20</b>								
Child Development Center (PK)	61	0	0	0	4	4	0.0%	6.6%
Inman Elementary School (K-6)	463	3	20	23	27	50	5.0%	10.8%
Red Oak Jr/Sr High School (7-12)	467	9	40	49	49	98	10.5%	21.0%
District	991	12	60	72	80	152	7.3%	15.3%

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