



March 17, 2020

Carlisle Stakeholders,

This list of key questions and answers has been developed to openly share information and proactively answer questions regarding this unprecedented event. We know our stakeholders have many questions, and we will do our best to answer all in a timely manner, but we ask for your patience as our team continues to work through the many issues that must be addressed. Rest assured that we will update this list and communicate with you often as information becomes available and as we seek additional guidance from health authorities and the Iowa Department of Education.

Thank you, again, for your flexibility and patience during this school closure. Even though the times are difficult and uncertain, we look forward to continuing to serving your students.

Thank you for your continued support and trust of the Carlisle Community School District. We will continue to provide updates through direct e-mail messages, on our social media and district website.

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Bryce Amos, Superintendent of Schools

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the dates of school closure? Will the required instruction hours be modified?

The district will be following the Governor's recommendation and closing all schools in the district from **March 23rd through April 13th**. The Iowa Legislature and Governor has waived the requirement for students to make up the days during the school closure period.

How is Carlisle CSD making operational and service decisions concerning the school closure?

Carlisle CSD is committed to working together as a team with our local/state health officials to do our part to keep our community safe. District administration has been closely monitoring the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) around the world, across the nation and the state. We have been in constant communication and collaboration with school board members, health authorities, state officials, and area superintendents. All decision making is focused on taking proactive and precautionary measures to address the well-being of all individuals in our school community.

Closed Facilities

Carlisle Community School District is closed beginning **March 16 through April 13**. Only essential staff will be allowed in the buildings during the time of the closure. The only facilities that will be open are the track and football field. NO practices of any kind will be conducted during the period of the closure. Students, staff and patrons are directed to stay out of the buildings for the duration of the closure.

Food Service for Students

Grab-and-go lunch services will be provided starting **March 23, 2020** and will continue through the school shutdown. These lunches will be **available from 11:30-1:00 pm in the high school commons**. These lunches are for CCSD students and are available at 1 per person. Each student must be in attendance to receive a lunch. Students will not stay on site to eat; meals are intended to be taken off campus. Lunches will include a meat and cheese sandwich, fruit, chips and a bottle of water.



Will we have graduation this year? What about prom, or other school/district events?

Effective March 16 through April 13 all events are postponed. As such, all events and activities previously scheduled to occur during school closure will be cancelled/postponed. We understand that our community greatly values these events and that our employees have invested a great amount of time and effort in preparing for these activities. Please know that every decision made is taken carefully and in the best interest of our students, staff, and community. We ask for your patience as our team continues to work through the many critical issues that must be addressed. Rest assured that we will communicate with you often as information becomes available and as we seek additional guidance from national, state, and local authorities.

How will the district know if they have a confirmed case of COVID-19? How will the district respond?

Schools will be contacted by public health officials if a student, student family member or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 and actions required by the school. IDPH or local public health will recommend the best course of action based on the situation and the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 in the community. Local health officials will work with the school to communicate the possible COVID-19 exposure as needed. This communication to the school community should align with the communication plan in the school's emergency operations plan. In such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality. If a child or staff member has been identified with COVID-19, local health officials will determine when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

Medicines

Medication for all Carlisle students will be available to be picked up on **Friday, March 20, 2020 from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Elementary Nurse's office.** We will use the security system in the Elementary Nurse's office to secure transfer in a no-contact environment. You will be required to bring photo identification with you to pick up your medications. If you are unavailable to come at that time, please call the district office to make arrangements to pick up your medications.

What supports are available for students with an IEP?

The federal Department of Education (DE) issued new resources around protecting student privacy and addressing questions regarding serving students with disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak. If a school is closed for an extended period of time (generally, more than 10 consecutive school days) and educational services are not provided to other students, then services are not required for students with disabilities during the closure. If a school provides services through virtual learning, the school should make all reasonable efforts to provide students with disabilities equal access to the same opportunities, and, to the greatest extent possible, special education and related services are provided. Once school resumes, local educational agencies must make every effort to implement individualized education plans, and should consider, on an individualized basis, whether and to what extent compensatory services are required due to the closure.

Is virtual learning an option?

At this time virtual/online learning is not an option for the district. Carlisle CSD also does not currently have the resources to adequately and equitably provide virtual learning to all our students. Current Iowa K-12 education is very different than many colleges who are transitioning to virtual learning after spring break.



Cleaning Measures - Busses

Busses are being cleaned thoroughly with disinfectant spray during our school closure. When our schools reopen, busses will continue to be cleaned by hand and electrostatic spray. In the event of sickness on a bus the bus is always disinfected and mopped.

Cleaning Measures - Schools

School custodians have prioritized disinfecting common, high use areas in school buildings multiple times a day. Supplies are allocated for each building to ensure that all areas can be cleaned thoroughly. Good hygiene habits are the most effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 according to Public Health and the CDC. Hard surfaces and frequently touched areas such as stair rails and doorknobs are wiped down with a disinfectant solution multiple times a day. Cafeteria surfaces are disinfected before and after each lunch. The district also has a Clorox 360 machine that uses electrostatic spray to clean rooms and other areas in the buildings. There are also hand sanitizer stations in labs and libraries.

Our school custodians clean daily:

- All doorknobs/bars/handles
- All stair handrails
- All light switches
- All pencil sharpeners
- All floors
- All drinking fountains/water refilling stations
- All sink faucets
- All urinal/toilet handles
- All dispensers

What specifically is prohibited for coaches/sponsors and their students during the district closure?

In-person contact between coaches/sponsors and students for the duration of the period is prohibited. This means no practices, no competitions, no scrimmages, no strength and conditioning activities, no training sessions or participation with other school programs. Visit the IGHS AU/IHSAA website for more information: <https://ighsau.org/news/frequently-asked-questions/>

What conversations should parents have with their children at home?

The district recommends the following resources: [Talking to Children about COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) - A Parent Resource](#). [IDPH Advice for Talking to Children about COVID-19](#)

What about students and employees who have recently traveled?

The extended closure of schools will provide a window in which all students and staff who recently travelled will not be in school with other students, staff. The school district recommends that all staff and students with travel history of less than 14 days will have to stay home for 14 more days prior to returning to school. **School closure should not be considered an extended spring break vacation.** Additional guidelines for individuals who have traveled is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>



What can I do to prevent the spread of the virus?

- Wash hands with soap and water frequently, for at least 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based sanitizers when soap and water are not available
- Use disposable tissues when coughing and sneezing; dispose of carefully and promptly
- If tissues are not available, direct your cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm/sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect “high-touch” objects and surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick, and remain home until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms
- Maintain healthy habits that support your immune system

Where can I Turn for More Information?

As with any newly emerging infectious disease, knowledge evolves with time. Early on, it is difficult to know the source of the disease, the ways in which it spreads, how effectively it spreads from person to person, and how severe the infection is.

Iowa Department of Public Health: <https://idph.iowa.gov/>

Center for Disease Control & Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Polk County Health Department: <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health>

Warren County Health Department: <https://healthservices.warrencountyia.org/>