

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Education to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges"

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Good Afternoon Knights,

Below is our COVID-19 related data for this week. In preparing our update for this week, I feel that it is important to remind everyone in our school district, students, staff, parents, and community members on the importance of following the basic mitigation guidelines: stay home if you are not feeling well, wash hands frequently, and wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible. Yes, this sounds like a broken record... but in reviewing our cases and hearing from other districts, if these basic strategies had been followed, it may have changed the overall impact. Had the guidelines for contact tracing not been changed, nearly a 100 students and multiple staff members would have been excluded from school this week. The changes in the contact tracing guidelines do not relinquish our responsibilities to each other.

We have seen an uptick in our case numbers and contact tracing this week. I feel that we, as a society, have created a negative stigmatism towards this virus and mitigation strategies. There is no blame to be placed in contracting the virus, but there certainly can be questions raised in what measures were(n't) taken prior and our responses once a person feels ill. The school district will continue with our cleaning efforts and our Return to Learn Plan will be revisited.

Here is our weekly update regarding our school district's current COVID-19 data. We will be utilizing the COVID-19 Iowa website, the zip code positivity rate is from Black Hawk County COVID-19 Website, and locally gathered data.

Current data points as of today:

- Positivity Rates (14 day rolling averages)
 - Black Hawk County- 8.3% (up from 6.2%)
 - Tama County- 12.7% (up from 11.6%)
 - Benton County- 8.9% (up from 6.3%)
 - Buchanan County- 8.3% (up from 7.6%)
 - La Porte City's positivity rate is 1.6% earlier this week (up from 1.4%)
 - Tama County is currently not calculating this percentage
- Iowa Department of Public Health Document
 - Current Conditions- Minimal to Moderate
- Current Number of Positive Staff & Student Cases- 6 (Up from 0)
- Current Number of Students in Quarantine- 44 (up from 7)
- Current Number of K-12 Students Involved in Remote Learning- 40 (down from 41) (These are families who chose remote learning as their personal preference, not because their family has COVID)
- Average District Attendance Rate- 93.7% (down from 95.8%)

Quick clarification on the data set above, this data is only reflective of this week's numbers. We are not planning to publish cumulative data.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact your student's building principal or myself with any questions that you may have regarding our school district's plan or for other information.

Take Care & Go Knights!

Travis Fleshner, Superintendent