

# Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21

400 West Front Street

Hartsburg, IL 62643

---

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

217-642-5244

Jon Leslie, District Principal

217-642-5333 (Fax)

March 12, 2021

## **Return to School**

(update)

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

This past week we have had some movement by the State of Illinois with its guidelines for reopening schools.

The key changes are:

1. Temperature checks are no longer required.
  - a. if a student is exhibiting symptoms we must temperature check
  - b. caregivers (parents/guardians) should do a symptoms check before students leave the home
2. Social Distancing . . . 3-6 feet for students and vaccinated staff.
  - a. non-vaccinated staff is still recommended to social distance at 6 feet
3. 50 students allowed on a bus (2 per seat).
  - a. they do not need to be from the same house hold, but they do have assigned seats (same two students must sit in the same seat) for contact tracing

Schools still must (and will):

1. Require universal and correct use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks.
2. Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible.
  - a. 3-6 feet/still no more than 50 people in one space
3. Require contact tracing in combination with isolation of those with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and quarantine of close contacts, in collaboration with the local health department.
4. Require an increase in schoolwide (and school bus) cleaning and disinfection and maintenance of healthy environments.
5. Require promotion and adherence to handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
6. No sharing of equipment. Shared equipment must be disinfected between each use
7. Must give the option of Remote Learning to students who are at increased risk of severe illness (including those with special health care needs) or who live with people at increased risk.

So, we really had 3 changes and everything else is staying the same. Starting Monday (March 15<sup>th</sup>) we will not do temperature checks at the door to enter. Entry times still remain the same.

In addition to these changes we also receive notification that symptoms of runny nose, stomach ache, or minor headache no longer need to be considered a viable reason to suspect COVID-19. If a child at school has these symptoms and is sent home, siblings no longer have to be removed from school. All other COVID-19 symptoms; temperature, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, major headache, diarrhea, and vomiting, student and siblings must still be sent home until COVID-19 can be ruled out.

We also have had some very encouraging news in Illinois as far as numbers. The number of new cases has dropped to numbers we haven't seen in 9 months (since last summer). Logan County is reporting only 12 active cases.

I encourage everyone to stay diligent with PPE, handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, wearing masks, and taking every precaution to stop the spread of COVID-19. I remain hopeful and optimistic that we can see things return to normal. It has been a rough year for everyone. We have had a majority of our parents and community members support Hartsburg-Emden School District and that means a lot to me personally – Thank you. We have challenges that still lie ahead of us, but I know we can successfully get through them working together.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Wisniewski, Superintendent

**Hartsburg - Emden C.U.S.D. #21**

400 West Front St.

Hartsburg, IL 62643

Phone (217) 642-5244 (HS)

Phone (217) 376-3151 (GS)

[twisniewski@hartem.org](mailto:twisniewski@hartem.org)