



Southeast Polk Community School District

Temporary Request for Permission to Provide Primarily Remote Learning

Resources Supporting Required Continuous Learning:

[DE Guidance](#)

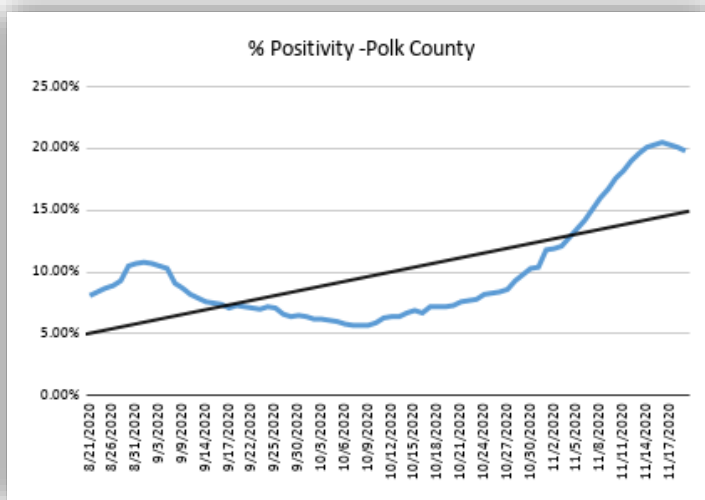
[Southeast Polk Return to Learn Plan](#)

[Remote Learning Pathway- What to Expect](#)

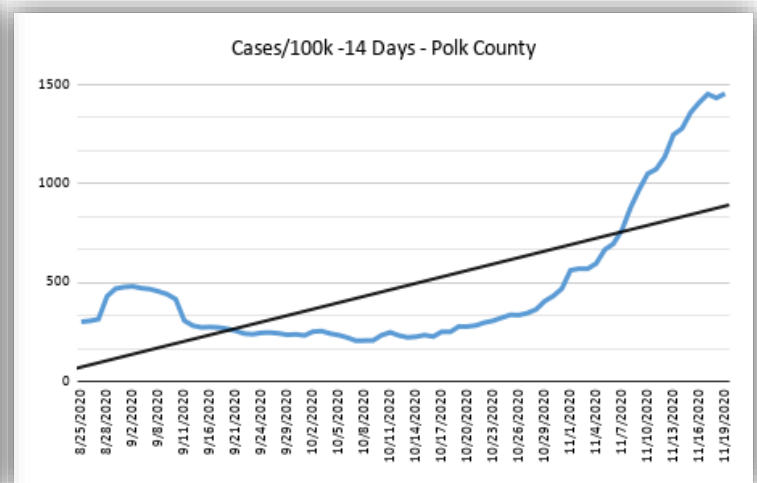
[SEP Remote Learning](#)

1. Evidence of consultation with local/county public health determining that the area meets the requirements established by IDPH.

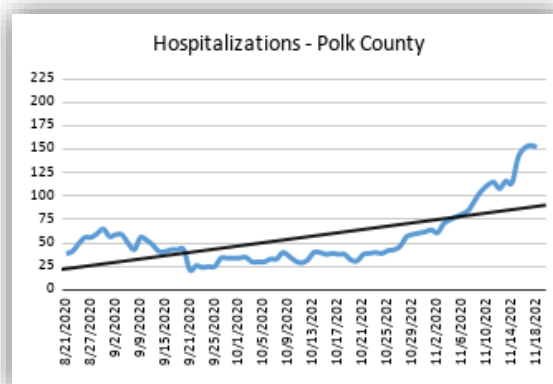
There has been consistent and effective collaboration between the Polk County Health Department and the District. Our Health Services staff and administration has been in consultation with PCHD with each positive case and contact tracing situation. Our staff has attended regular virtual meetings led by the PCHD staff. PCHD has provided information to inform our Return to Learn plan and feedback whenever we have had questions.

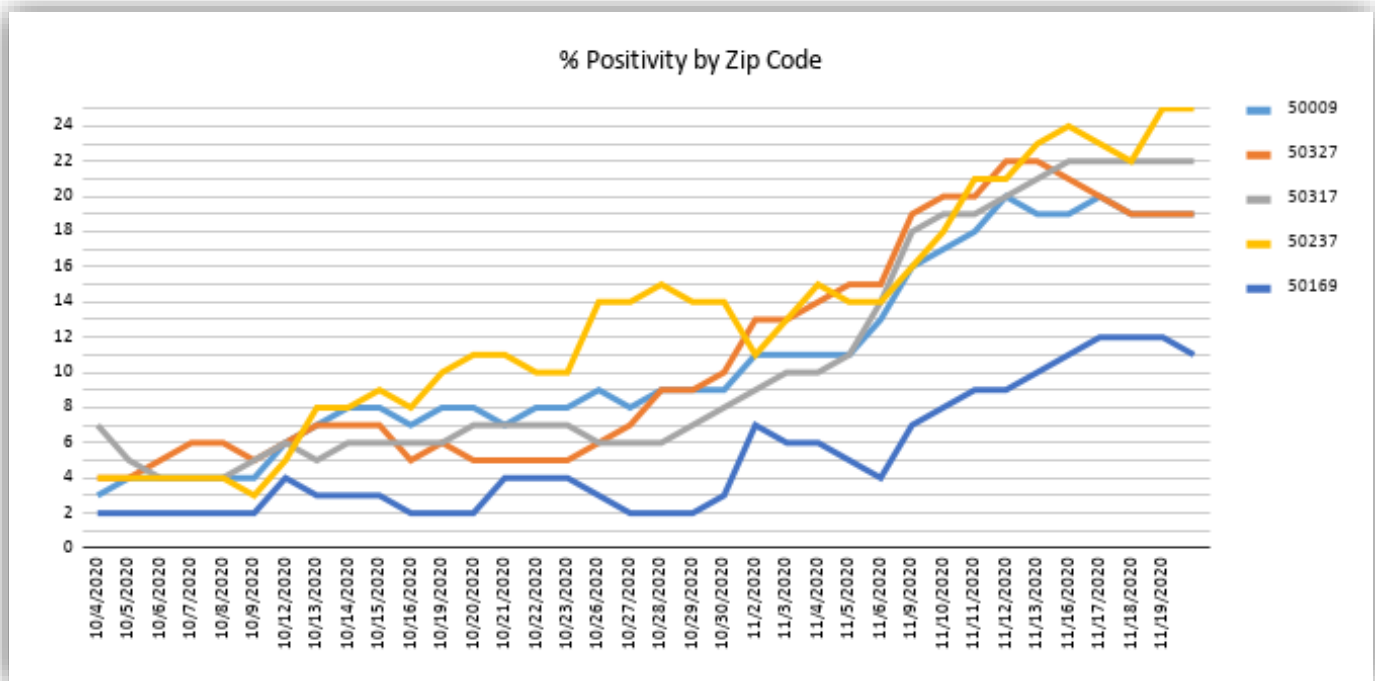


19.8 % Positivity- Polk County



1465 cases/100,000/14 days – Polk County





Dashboard Data

As of Nov. 19, 2020, 4:00 pm

	Southeast Polk Students	Southeast Polk Staff
Current Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Cases	30	21
Currently quarantining	332 Total 44 Close Contact at School	33 Total 4 Close Contact at School
Polk County COVID-19 Positivity Rate	19.8% (Source: coronavirus.iowa.gov)	
Daily Student Absence Rate * Average daily absentee rate for Nov. 16-19	8.43%	

Student Absentee Rates

Our COVID-19 and illness related absentee rates for students range from 4.1% to 12.7% and this has been steadily rising over the last 2 weeks. We have also seen our number of positive cases with students double during this time and our number of quarantined students has tripled to 332.

Building	COVID and Illness Absences
Altoona Elementary	12.7%
Centennial Elementary	7.69%
Clay Elementary	9.94%
Delaware Elementary	8%
Four Mile Elementary	10.92%
Mitchellville Elementary	9.85%
Runnells Elementary	4.11%
Willowbrook Elementary	12.34%
Spring Creek – 6 th Grade	7.91%
Southeast Polk Junior High	9.5%
Southeast Polk High School	8.55%

Staff Absentee Rates

Staff absentee rates are a major concern for the District. In the buildings they currently range from 3.13% to 15.49%. Our overall rate including all classified staff is 13.7%. Like the students, this number has risen steadily over the last 2 weeks. Our positive cases have grown 33% and our quarantines have nearly doubled.

Building	COVID and Illness Absences
Altoona Elementary	15.49%
Centennial Elementary	5.56%
Clay Elementary	2.67%
Delaware Elementary	8.57%
Four Mile Elementary	10%
Mitchellville Elementary	3.13%
Runnells Elementary	5.26%
Willowbrook Elementary	9.52%
Spring Creek – 6 th Grade	7.46%
Southeast Polk Junior High	7.58%
Southeast Polk High School	7.59%

Further complicating matters is the fact that our substitute fill rate for teachers has been at 54% over the last 2 weeks. Classified staff is much lower. We have made multiple efforts to get creative in addressing these needs including transitioning from 5 days in-person learning to a

hybrid a/b model. We are reaching the point where it is becoming difficult to appropriately staff our buildings for effective learning environments.

We are now requesting approval from the Department of Education for the District to move to fully remote learning for 10 school days with the intent being to return to in-person instruction after this time.

2. If the application for temporary permission is approved:

A. How will the district or accredited nonpublic school ensure that all students with IEPs are provided with FAPE during the time the district/school is providing services primarily online?

Teams have been meeting throughout the school year to complete page I of the IEP plan which addresses how specially designed instruction will be delivered in each pathway, including remote learning. This revision includes the accommodations, modifications, and support services needed for students with individual education plans, including the use of assistive technology. In limited cases where we will not be able to address learning goals through remote instruction only, students will be provided face to face instruction as outlined in the IEP.

B. How will the district or accredited nonpublic school ensure that students who require mental health or health services still have access to these services during the time the district/school is providing services primarily online?

School counseling, social work, and mental health services will continue while the district is in a required continuous learning model as outlined in the Southeast Polk Return to Learn plan. The district contract with Employee and Family Resources will continue to provide students and staff with access to virtual mental health services.

C. How will the district or accredited nonpublic school ensure that students with 504 plans continue to receive services?

The Southeast Polk Section 504 Accommodation Plan was revised prior to the 2020-2021 school year to allow for and document additional or different accommodations in the required continuous learning model. Individual plans are reviewed as needed to consider adjustments to a student's need for access in light of a different delivery model.

D. How will the district continue to provide meals to students?

We will continue to serve meals in a remote continuous learning model. We are operating under the guidelines of the USDA's Summer Food Service Program and in accordance with all Department of Inspection and Appeals regulations. Breakfast and lunch will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week, with multiple days of meals. Several locations for pick up will be offered as approved by the IDoE and in accordance with SFSP guidelines.

E. How will the district provide access to instructional materials and services for students who do not have access to the internet?

Currently every K-12 student in the school district is provided a chromebook. Teachers make use of Google Classroom and Canvas to provide online lessons and resources. Additionally, the district has provided over 400 hotspots to families across the district. There is a district system by which families may apply to receive a hotspot and support with access to online services.

F. What process will you use to communicate with parents/families on educational services and changes in delivery models?

The Southeast Polk CSD has published for the public a Southeast Polk Return to Learn plan which describes the manner in which educational services will be delivered in each possible instructional model. The plan as well as any updates related to it such as changes in instructional models or current COVID-19 data are proactively communicated through direct email, texts, our website, and other communication channels including social media and the news media. This communication includes translation into different languages used within the district.