



Phone: 712 - 278 - 2245

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Dear Ireton Christian School Families,

We are looking forward to school starting on Monday, August 24th!

ICS is committed to doing everything possible to keep school open throughout the school year. We are dedicated to protecting the health of our students, families, and staff, including: physical, academic, social, emotional, and spiritual health. It is possible that our response to COVID-19 may change daily, but our community will remain strong. We will continue to provide exceptional, Christ-centered education.

We thank you for your patience as we created our return to school plan to keep our students and staff safe. This plan may change based upon different protocols from public health. As you read through this information we ask that keep an open mind.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Kooima.

Mrs. Kooima
Principal

The mission of the Ireton Christian School is to develop knowledge and understanding in each of God's children so they can effectively relate to God, to others, and to creation.

ICS

plan

ICS is preparing to be open for the **entire** school year. Our goal is to implement the following strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Unlike many other viruses (such as influenza), COVID-19 is less likely to be contracted and spread by a person between 0-18 years of age than any other age group (American Academy of Pediatrics). It is up to each family (along with their family physician) to make well-informed decisions for their children.

KEY POINTS FROM AAP GUIDANCE:

- COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate risk; not eliminate risk
 - Policies should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for child/adolescent developmental stages
- School policies should be guided by supporting the overall health and well-being of all children, their families, staff, and communities.
- All policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.
- Children are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from COVID-19 infection.
- Physical distancing by adults is strongly recommended and less important for children.
- Utilize the classroom setting to minimize crossover among children and adults with the school.

Ireton Christian Learning Plan:

CLASSROOMS & SHARED SPACES:

- In classrooms, desks will face forward and, if possible, have space between each desk. Students will have assigned seats in their classrooms.
- Students will label and use their own school supplies. Anything shared will have designated containers for clean and used items.
- Students will eat lunch in their classrooms.
- Recess will be run as normal.
- Each classroom will have a designated restroom and bottle filler station to use.
- Chapel will be held in the gym to increase spacing between classrooms.

HYGIENE:

- **Face coverings will not be required but may be worn by students and staff.**
 - **Teachers will communicate with students the importance of respecting everyone's decisions to wear/not wear face coverings.**
- **Hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer will be a regular part of the school day.**
- **Drinking fountains are disabled, the bottle filling portion will be working. Please send a labeled water bottle with your student to use during the day and bring home each day to wash.**

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL:

- **Students riding the bus will be seated with their families.**
- **ICS staff will monitor arrival and pick-up to help students move quickly to and from their classrooms.**
- **Kindergarten/Preschool will enter through the main entrance.**
- **Middle school students will use the Southeast door.**
- **1st - 4th will use the Northeast door.**
- **Each student's temp will be taken upon arrival to their classroom. If student's temp is 100 or above they will sit in our caring room until an adult picks them up.**
- **Temps will be taken before noon recess.**
- **For the foreseeable future, we ask all families to limit entry to the school building. Please remain outside during drop-off and pick-up.**
- **No visitors are allowed during lunch.**

BUILDING CLEANLINESS:

- **Cleaning and disinfecting of ICS is a priority. School will be deeply cleaned each day with cleaning supplies proven to eliminate COVID-19 virus. High traffic areas will be disinfected during the day.**

Note from our governor:

All Iowa schools should take every effort to safely welcome back students to school in person this fall. In the event that the Governor issues a proclamation that changes this expectation, we may need to abide by the following for a short time:

If needed, here are some additional steps we will take at ICS:

CLASSROOM AND SHARED SPACES:

- **Students may have specials such as music in their classrooms.**
- **Designated zones for grade levels for indoor/outdoor recess, with the same recess time slots as normal.**
- **Chapel could be watched in classrooms live.**

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL:

- **A staggered plan for drop off and pick up may be implemented.**
- **Volunteers would be limited.**
- **It is imperative that families adhere to our sick policy. Keep students home when feeling ill is vital. Our attendance policy will adapt according to the new guidelines of COVID-19 virus.**

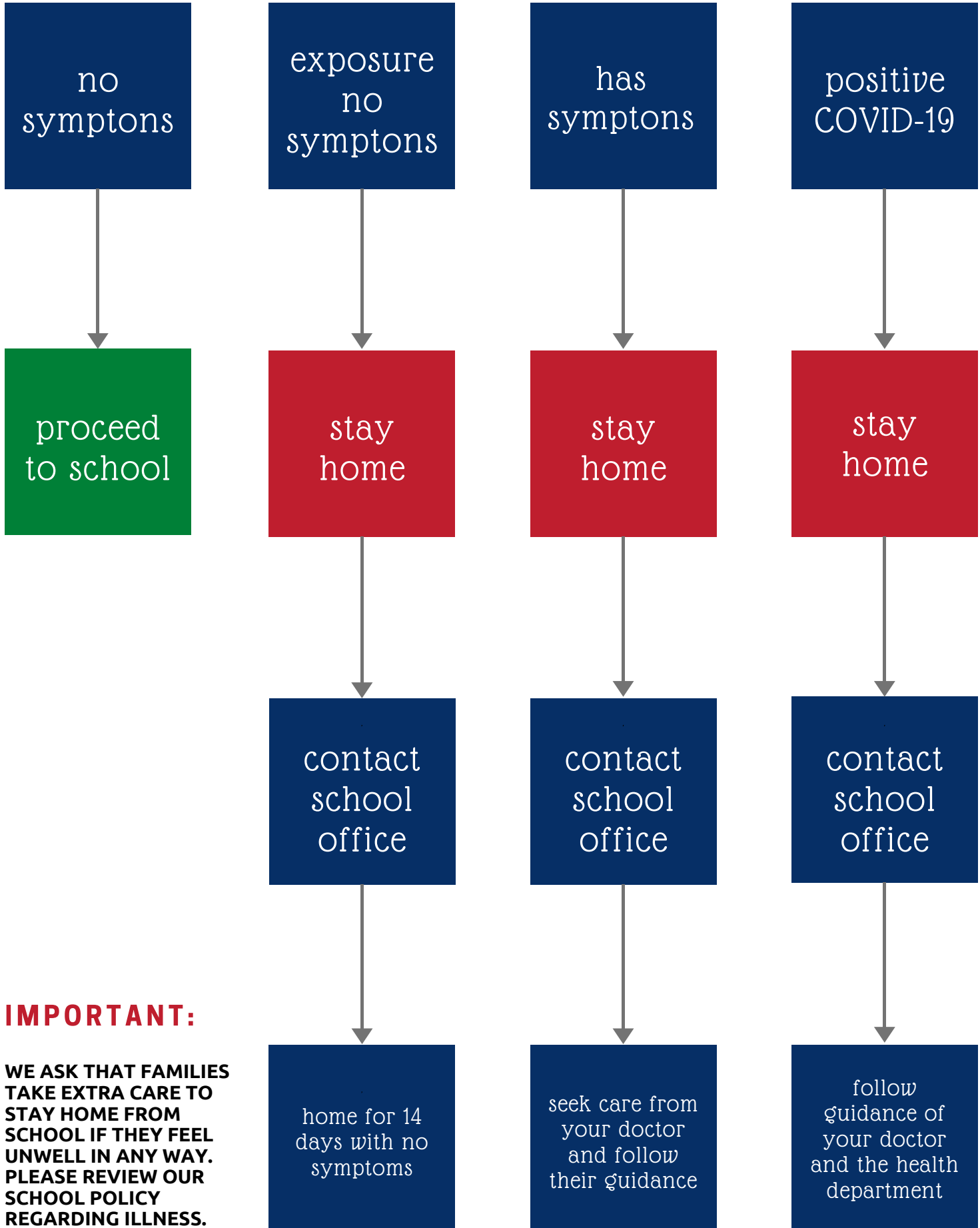
POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS:

- FEVER
- NEW COUGH
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- SYMPTOMS OF NAUSEA, VOMITING, OR DIARRHEA
- SORE THROAT
- MUSCLE ACHES
- NEW LOSS OF SMELL/TASTE
- CONGESTION/RUNNY NOSE

EXPOSURE DEFINITION:

IF YOU HAVE BEEN WITHIN 6 FEET OF AN INFECTED PERSON FOR AT LEAST 15 MINUTES STARTING FROM 48 HOURS BEFORE THE PERSON BEGAN SHOWING SYMPTOMS UNTIL THE TIME THE PERSON WAS ISOLATED, YOU WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO REMAIN OUT OF SCHOOL.

COVID-19 HEALTH SCREENING FLOW CHART



IMPORTANT:

WE ASK THAT FAMILIES TAKE EXTRA CARE TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL IF THEY FEEL UNWELL IN ANY WAY. PLEASE REVIEW OUR SCHOOL POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

- We will do our best to communicate with ICS families when there is a positive COVID-19 case, while respecting the confidentiality of those involved in the unfortunate event that a student needs to be out of the school for an extended period of time due to long-term sickness or mandatory self-quarantine, virtual learning will be available.
- Decision for athletics and fine arts will be made in collaboration with area Christian schools, our community health department and the Iowa Department of Education.

Thank You

WE WANT TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
FOR THEIR HELP IN DEVELOPING THIS PLAN

Nicki Weida
Scott Miedema
Nate Kuperus
Megan Kooima