

Parent response to lockdowns

Coloma Community Schools considers your child's safety one of our top concerns. That includes training them how to respond to potential emergencies in the buildings from fire drills to lockdowns. This sheet is meant to help you as a parent, understand your role in keeping children safe during an emergency at school.



Before an event – Talk to your child



- Ask them about the school's procedures. Remind them that if something occurs they need to stay calm and follow directions from the teachers and/or other adults in charge at the school.
- Remind your student that during an emergency, they should only use their phone if the teacher says it is okay. If they go on social media or connect with friends, please caution them not to spread inaccurate information. False information could unnecessarily increase the anxiety of others involved and might mislead authorities about what is actually happening in the school.
- Stress to them the importance of their online behavior – including not bullying or making threats – and encourage them to tell an adult if they see something that concerns them.

During an event – Stay put, stay calm, and wait to hear



- **Do NOT call or text your child.** This could alert an intruder to student's location and distract the students from following direction from adults on the scene. If your student reaches out to you, try to respond calmly to help avoid panic.
- **Do NOT go to the school.** In a true emergency, you will be putting yourself in harm's way and interfering with the police and other emergency responders. For your safety, and that of your child, stay away from the building until the lockdown ends. During an emergency, you will not be allowed in the building and your child will not be allowed to leave with you until the lockdown has ended.
- Avoid calling the school. School staff likely will be unable to answer the phones as they focus on the safety of students and themselves. Information will be posted on the school website once the lockdown is over. We will work to provide this information to you as quickly as possible, but sometimes we need time to gather all the details to present you with accurate information.

Terms to know

Lockdown means the school is securing the doors and students are being required to stay in classrooms. Access to the building will be extremely limited and only to emergency responders.

Soft lock down is when the building doors are secured, but students are allowed to move as usual throughout the building. This is usually done as a precaution due to issues outside the building and with a recommendation from local law enforcement.

One more important piece of information

All of our buildings practice emergency situations so they are prepared to handle them. Our buildings conduct 5 fire drills, 2 tornado/severe weather drills, and 3 lockdown drills every year to ensure students and staff are prepared!!



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