

Frequently Asked Questions

Q- If I choose remote learning, how will my child get their special education services?

A. If you choose remote learning for your child, the team will meet and determine how, when, and how much service time your child will be provided special education services. Each situation will be on an individual needs' determination.

Q- If my child has a disability that prevents them from wearing a mask, do I have to choose remote learning?

A. No, each situation will be reviewed on an individual need basis. The team will convene to determine what needs your child has and the team will make decisions based on individual needs.

Q- What are my options for learning if my child receives special education services?

A. Your child will have the same options as all other children in the district. Your child may attend their classes in an in-person format or choose remote learning and still be provided a free and appropriate education based on their individual needs.

Q-Why did Vermillion School District require masks when Governor Noem does not recommend a mask mandate?

A-Governor Noem is a proponent of local control as a means of best serving the diverse and varied nature of our state. The Vermillion School District took into consideration the complexity of the situation, the best available information on educational outcomes, and the risk to health and well-being of students, staff and community members. Community spread is low at the present time (7/29/20) but with thousands of college students entering the community over the next month a mask mandate provides an extra level of safety during the start of school.

Q-Why is the Vermillion School District opting for remote delivery options using their teachers and staff rather than utilizing an online service?

A-Consistency of education and eventual return to face-to-face learning are top priority for the Vermillion School District. We believe that VSD teachers are qualified and committed to ensuring the success of students in the district and in preparing them for a return to the classroom when a student's family feels comfortable returning to school. A remote instruction plan utilizing our existing teachers ensures that student in both remote and face-to-face are advancing at the same pace and maintaining progress in achieving the district's learning outcomes. Further, this plan allows students to transition between in-person and remote as needed due to illness or quarantine. Any remote instruction plan is less than ideal, but the current plan is one that ensures the best continuity of education, keeps students are on track with our district curriculum for when they return to in-person education, and minimizes the challenges of coping with quarantine and illness.

Q-How will buildings be cleaned?

A-Enhanced cleaning measures have been implemented with approved cleaning disinfectants. The staff have been trained and use established best practices to routinely clean all facilities.

Q-What about activities and other school events such as open house or registration?

A-The SDHSAA is working on their proposal for return to activities this fall. They will lead that discussion once they have decided. Our students are in a 3 Phase summer program currently that allows reduced contact, skills, and drills practice. Student registration will be online. Open House events will likely be postponed and rescheduled to near the start of school where visitors come to school on an individual basis.

Q-Will social distancing be practiced?

A-Yes, to the extent possible. Staff will be rearranging classrooms, hanging signage, cohorting students at lunch and recess to reduce student contact.

Q-Will there be a change in arrival times at the schools?

A-Potentially, but currently normal arrival times are encouraged. We will ask students to not gather in large groups and we will likely have students go straight to their classrooms upon arrival unless they are eating breakfast.

Q-Will visitors be allowed at school?

A-Visitors to school will be reduced. The school will continue its partnership with USD which allows student teachers and intern students to work in the schools.

Q-Will kids eat together at lunch?

A-Yes, but the lunchroom will be configured differently, and the lunch period will be lengthened to allow students to be more distant. They will be in a cohort group and some classes may eat in their classrooms. The lunch program will be different in that students will no longer serve themselves but will be served. Options may also be reduced to allow staff to clean and serve.

Q-What is meant by screening procedures and how will they be implemented?

A-Screening refers to the procedures by which students and staff are checked daily for symptoms of Covid-19. We will ask parents to complete the wellness check daily prior to sending their child to school. If students or staff exhibit any of the Covid-19 symptoms they will be excluded from school for the day. Positive Covid cases will be investigated by the SDDOH.

Q-Will buses run as normal?

A-Yes, social distancing and masks will be required, along with enhanced cleaning measures, but ultimately families will have to decide if they feel it is more appropriate for them to take their children to school versus riding the school bus.

Q- What classes will be offered in Remote Learning?

A- Not all classes can be offered in the Remote Learning.

Q- Will Remote Learning students have attendance requirements?

A- Yes, students will be required to sign in daily for each scheduled course.

Q- Can my child(ren) enroll in remote learning and participate in activities?

A- Yes, students in remote learning can participate in activities and they will be held accountable for all the same eligibility requirements for grades, attendance, etc. as On-campus students.

Q- How will students take district and state assessments if they are educating through the remote platform?

A- As required by state and federal law, students in the Remote Learning will be required to take district and state assessments. Staff will put proctoring procedures in place according to district, state and assessment guidelines.

Q- Will there be a remote learning option for students?

A- Yes. If a family opts for remote learning, this will be a 9 week long commitment.

Q- Will masks be mandatory?

A- Yes. Student masks are currently required as appropriate for the developmental level. Staff will be required to wear masks.

Q- If the state mandates school closures, what platforms will be used for remote learning?

A- Pre-K-4 Seesaw

5-12 Google Classroom

JK-12 Students will have 1:1 device

MS/HS staff will be teaching during school hours. Students in elementary will have a combination of videos, live instruction and paper/pencil packets.

Q- Where does the school gather guidance from?

A- SD Department of Education ‘Starting Well 2020’ <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

Department of Health and CDC

Q- What happens if students get COVID or another illness?

A- Attendance will be taken similar to on-campus attendance policies regarding illnesses. If a student is sick, there will need to be communication and verification of the illness between the school and the parent/guardian.

Q- Upon a positive COVID test at school what will happen?

A- Contact tracing is a public health function performed by local public health departments to trace all persons who had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. This allows public health officials to put in place isolation or other measures to limit the spread of the virus. The DOH will lead the district through the process whether there is one case in one classroom or multiple cases throughout the district involving students or staff. That exposure risk will determine from simply observation to a 14-day quarantine.

Q- Will parents be able to come in building to sign student out?

A- For all students who need to leave the building (have an appointment, are ill, need to leave early, etc.) parents will call the school office upon arrival so students can be released.