



# VERMILLION SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

**CLASSES RESUME AUGUST 20<sup>th</sup>**

17 Prospect | 605-677-7000

April 12, 2021



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Dear Patrons of Vermillion School District:

First, our staff are extremely excited to welcome your children back to school this fall and are working to provide a safe and nurturing experience. While our school may look a little different the expectation remains strong that we will offer a high-quality education experience, either by traditional in-person model or the remote model. Building principals have details if you still have questions. Our school and campus will abide by a mask mandate. The Vermillion Public School Foundation and the Vermillion School District will each provide a mask to students at the start of school.

Please take a moment to walk through our Vermillion School District Return to School Plan and familiarize yourself with protocols and procedures we will follow this school term. Please contact a building administrator if you have any questions. Our plan has taken guidance from many professional resources to accommodate a healthy return to school. Those resources include: SD Dept of Health, Center for Disease Control, SD Dept of Education, American Academy of Pediatrics, US Dept of Education, Federal and State elected officials, local health organizations and local stake holders.

I would like to thank all the patrons of VSD, our staff, school board and community in general for their patience and questions during this time. The efforts of all of you gives us confidence at the school that everything will work out as we work through this challenge together. I will remind you that the RTSP is a flexible document that will be constantly reviewed and updated. The latest version will be placed on the school website at [www.vermillion.k12.sd.us](http://www.vermillion.k12.sd.us).

There will be a Remote Orientation on Monday Aug 17 from 5:00-7:00 at each building for students working within the remote model. Students attending school in the traditional model will have orientation on Wed Aug 19. Details are being sent from each school. VSD will start school on Aug 20. The first few weeks of school will once again serve as a transition for students returning to school after so many months off. We will work through the issues together. I would remind everyone that we will follow SD Dept of Health guidance as it relates to Covid exposure and the potential closing of school. Be prepared for the potential of all students going to a remote model at some point this year. It may come with short notice depending on the data we receive. School staff are prepared to educate within a remote model if called to do so.

I wish you many blessings as summer concludes and school begins. Please reach out to the school district if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Damon R. Alvey, Superintendent



## AUSTIN

Orientation Conferences will be held on the following dates with small groups of parents/guardians. Classes lists will be completed Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be sent a link to sign up.

### • PRESCHOOL, JK, KINDERGARTEN

- Orientation will be Wednesday & Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup>
- First Day of School for JK, & KINDERGARTEN will be Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>
- First Day of School for PRESCHOOL will be Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

### • 1<sup>st</sup> GRADE

- Orientation will be Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 5:00pm
- First Day of School will be Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

**MASKS REQUIRED**

## JOLLEY – Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

- Orientation Conferences will be held on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, in 15 minute intervals, between 8:00am – 5:00pm. Class lists will be finalized Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be sent a link to sign up for a conference time.
- Two sets of parents/guardians will be able to sign up for each interval. If that day does not work, an alternative time with the classroom teacher can be scheduled. This conference can also take place remotely. Parents will be given information regarding changes and have an opportunity to ask questions. An overview of online learning will be reviewed (Clever Badges, Curriculum Codes, etc...)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL – Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:

- 8:30am** Parents and students arrive, pick up schedules. Parents will go to the gym to discuss protocols and school year plan with Mr. O'Boyle. Students to lockers and advisement group room.
- 9:00am** Dress Code / Before School information
- 9:14am** Students will travel thru their schedule spending 10 minutes in each classroom. Topics covered will be lockers/backpacks, Agendas, Infinite Campus, Accessing Assignment Page on website-Chromebooks, Google Classroom
- 11:02am** Students will go to the commons and sit by class at tables spaced out, then be shown how we will go through the lunch line. Dismissed at noon.

**7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00pm by appointment, link sent by email to sign up

## HIGH SCHOOL – Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

### GRADES 9 & 10 8:30 - 11:30 am

- Grade 9 to the auditorium, Grade 10 to designated areas for paying fees (computer, lunch, activities, etc.) then to laptop check-out in library.
- Rotate groups. (Grade 10 to the auditorium, Grade 9 to designated areas for paying fees.)

### GRADES 11&12 12:30 - 3:30 pm

- Grade 12 to the auditorium, Grade 11 to designated areas for paying fees (computer, lunch, activities, etc.) then to laptop check-out in library.
- Rotate groups. (Grade 11 to the auditorium, Grade 12 to designated areas for paying fees.)

## REMOTE LEARNING ORIENTATION: MONDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup> 5:00 - 7:00pm

Please PICK UP DEVICES AT MIDDLE SCHOOL PRIOR TO visiting your student's respective building.

Specific details will be sent directly to families who have committed to Remote Learning.

**FIRST DAY OF CLASS FOR JK, KINDERGARTEN WILL BE FRIDAY, AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup>**



This plan was created in conjunction with Vermillion School District School Board, Administration, Staff, Parents and Health Care community. This plan follows closely to SD DOH, CDC, and SD DOE guidelines. It is meant to plan and care for the safety, social and emotional needs of VSD students and staff and provide flexibility for instruction in a safe manner during this pandemic. It is the goal to have students back to school for personal instruction as soon as possible. It is the belief of the Return to School Committee (RTSC) that person to person instruction best meets the needs of our students. The RTSC outlined four overarching goals for this plan, Academic Supports, Operations, Activities, and Health/Safety/Facilities. This plan is subject to change.

Return to school plan contributors: Doug Peterson, Tim Schwasinger, Rachel Olsen, Jim Peterson, Carol Voss-Ward, Damon Alvey, Sheila Beermann, Jon Frey, Jason Huska, Tom O'Boyle, Sam Jacobs, Kim Johnson, Amy Askew, Amy Pohlon, Mary Begley, Joseph Delvaux, Kamden Dibley, Trisha Fisher, Jean Hansen, Sara Hage, Tom Heisinger, Chabli Hodge, Melanie Mahowald, Trevor Mandernach, Roxane Olson, Jessie Rasmussen, Darcy Sammelson, Gretchen Scoblic, John Schloss, Bill Settles, Kelly Stone, Mindy Whisler, Dr. Krell, Dr. Cauwels, Dr. Nettleman, and the SDHSAA.

This plan is not intended to establish minimum requirements or standards of care. All aspects of this plan are aspirational and discretionary in their implementation by the school district, its agents and employees. It is acknowledged and understood that this plan is subject to numerous laws, regulations and agencies that promote or require exceptions and accommodations, making mandatory and uniform application, enforcement and compliance unlikely. It is also acknowledged and understood that incident response and reaction expediencies, as well as ever changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic itself, render any absolute plan adherence expectations unrealistic.

The following guidelines are intended to provide protection for our employees, students and community.

### **ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

The Vermillion School District has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the District cannot guarantee that individuals will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, school attendance could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>

## SD DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

### SD DOE maintains the below assumptions:

- Schools will provide instruction in the fall and throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- COVID-19 will continue to spread, with or without a vaccine, through the next school year.
- Schools can take practical steps to mitigate spread of the virus while continuing to focus on student learning.
- Each district will make decisions based on scientific information at the time, current status of virus spread in and around the school community, and best interests of staff, students, and families.
- This document does not constitute a legal guide.

### Decision-making should be based on what we know to be true about COVID-19, knowing that our understanding of the virus will continue to evolve:

- The rate of infection and the mortality rate of COVID-19 is higher than that of influenza.
- There are no known reliable therapeutics or vaccines for COVID-19.
- These two factors combine to necessitate mitigation strategies beyond what a school would put in place for seasonal influenza.
- Asymptomatic individuals are infectious, though not to the same degree as those displaying symptoms.
- Children are carriers and are susceptible to the virus. Yet there are different levels of susceptibility throughout the population.
- Measures such as social distancing and masks in confined spaces help reduce transmission.
- It is not known:
  - If you have had COVID-19, whether and when you could get it again.
  - Whether seasonality affects COVID-19.
  - How much higher the infection rate of COVID-19 is than influenza.

### SD DOE expectations for schools:

- Schools will continue to be a safe environment for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health. Local decisions will be rooted in what is best for students.
- Schools will take reasonable steps within the context of COVID-19 spread in the community to protect the school community. National guidelines, while helpful to provide a context, are only a guide. SD DOE expects school leaders to make reasoned judgments to limit the spread but still provide for continuity of learning.
- Every student will have the opportunity to engage in a full year of learning, irrespective of the spread of COVID-19 in a community.
- School leaders will work transparently with their school boards, staff, and community to communicate decisions and the underlying assumptions guiding those decisions.
- School leaders will need to make difficult decisions to ensure the health – both mental and physical – of their entire school community.



### **WHAT SCHOOL PERSONNEL WILL DO:**

- Mitigate risk/spread by encouraging physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, sanitation, wearing masks, staggering class start and release times, hallway flow adjustments, adjusting lunch times and seating, recess modification and spacing of students in common areas.
- Be aware of illness/symptoms in the student body and contact a students' family immediately if a student exhibits symptoms.
- Monitor positive COVID-19 cases and its spread in Vermillion School District and follow – as we would with any community health concern – the recommendation of health department officials regarding school closures, modified school schedule or in-school adjustments.
- Continue to refine our digital curriculum to meet the needs of remote learning.
- Modify our method of delivery, however necessary, to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Understand that these guidelines are determined by health, educational and civic professionals commissioned to care for your child, considering the physical environment, time spent in school, and potential risk to the health of our students, staff and families.
- Keep your child home if they have a fever, cough, cold or flu symptoms, and have them return only when these symptoms have subsided. Fever free for 24 hours without medication.
- Create a family plan in case your child is sent home from school/bus due to high temperature or is required to be quarantined or isolated.
- Create a family plan in the event school closes for a 14-day quarantine due to a case (s) within the Vermillion School District.
- Talk to your child about changes they may notice at school, reinforcing that these measures are in place to preserve their health, and the health of those around them.
- Send your child to school with a mask and encourage them to wear it.





## BUILDING SPECIFICS

<b>AUSTIN</b>	<p><b>Morning Routine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breakfast starts at 7:55am.</li><li>• ALL doors will electronically open at 7:45am.</li><li>• Students will enter through their designated grade-level entrance unless they are eating breakfast.</li><li>• Students not eating breakfast will go DIRECTLY to their classroom, rather than the playground.</li><li>• Students walking, biking, or being dropped off will be recommended to do so as close to 8:15am as possible.</li></ul> <p><b>Recess</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less classrooms at a time on the playground (instead of the whole grade level).</li><li>• We will consider various scenarios to divide the playground and encourage ample student movement and activity.</li></ul> <p><b>Lunchroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added time to the lunch schedule, allowing less students in the lunchroom at a time. We will be utilizing more tables and seating areas and outside space when possible.</li></ul> <p><b>After School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There will be staggered release times for students riding the school bus.</li><li>• Students getting picked up will exit through their designated doors.</li></ul>
<b>JOLLEY</b>	<p><b>Morning Routine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NO PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY</b></li><li>• Breakfast starts at 7:55am.</li><li>• ALL doors will electronically open at 7:45am.</li><li>• Students will enter through their designated grade-level entrance unless they are eating breakfast.</li><li>• Students not eating breakfast will go DIRECTLY to their classroom, rather than the playground.</li><li>• Students walking, biking, or being dropped off will be recommended to do so as close to 8:15am as possible.</li></ul> <p><b>Recess</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two classrooms at a time out on the playground (instead of four).</li><li>• Playground will be divided in half; classrooms will stay on their assigned half.</li></ul> <p><b>Lunchroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30 minutes will be added to the lunch schedule, allowing less students in the lunchroom at a time. We will be utilizing more tables and seating areas.</li></ul> <p><b>After School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staggered release times for students riding the school bus.</li><li>• Students getting picked up, walking, or biking will exit through their designated doors.</li></ul>





## BUILDING SPECIFICS

<b>MIDDLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doors will open at 7:50am.</li><li>• Students will report to their advisement class.</li><li>• Students class schedule in cohorts.</li><li>• Students will be allowed to wear backpacks.</li><li>• Class dismissals will be slightly staggered.</li><li>• Lunch schedule will be extended to 44 minutes.</li><li>• Students will be assessed in the first weeks of school to determine education baseline.</li></ul>
<b>HIGH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students should plan to arrive between 7:45 and 8:15 am</li><li>• Classes start daily at 8:30am</li><li>• Students may choose to have breakfast in the cafeteria prior to 1st Period.</li><li>• Students not choosing breakfast will be expected to report to their 1st period teacher's classroom, upon arrival, to minimize contact with others in the hallways.</li><li>• Students may seek academic help from instructors prior to 1st period.</li><li>• The following classes will not be offered for remote learners: Ceramics, Photography, Advanced Photography, Drawing &amp; Painting, Intro to Tech Ed, Residential Construction, Building Trades, Welding, Advanced Welding, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, Physical Education, Culinary arts, Small Gas Engines, Know Your Auto, Auto Tech, Music, Band.</li></ul>



### NURSE'S OFFICE

- Students or staff that exhibit potential COVID-19 symptoms will be removed from the classroom, checked by health staff, and complete COVID-19 symptom screening.
- Isolation areas, apart from front office, will be utilized to complete symptom screenings.
- Screening protocol, developed in collaboration with local health officials and SD DOH, will be used to identify potential COVID-19 risks. Students/staff will be sent home accordingly.
- Return to School Guidelines must be met for students/staff to be cleared for return to school.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRADITIONAL IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REMOTE LEARNING PLAN</b> <i>Amendment, see page 46</i></p>
<p>Students will be instructed in the traditional manner with students and teachers present in the same classroom. Mitigations such as mandated masks will be implemented in all classes and all settings PK-12 (staff will build in breaks when possible). Other mitigations such as social distancing and enhanced cleaning will be promoted, and enhanced hygiene practices will be taught and practiced throughout the school.</p> <p>Food Service will run as normal. Masks will not be mandated at lunch as students will be socially distanced. Breakfast and lunch will take place in the cafeteria to the extent possible. Classrooms may be used as well. Menu items will be served to students; salad bar will be eliminated due to cross contamination concerns. Food items will be reduced to accommodate the new serving plan. Students will continue to have access to a highly nutritious food program that meets all national school lunch program guidelines.</p> <p><b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b> SDHSAA has promoted a back to school activities plan which the VSD will follow. Determination of schedules, games, spectator participation remain a working item. Fine arts, club activities, and concerts are still being discussed.</p> <p><b><u>BUSING</u></b> Transportation will be offered as normal. Masks are mandatory to ride the bus. The bus will receive extra cleaning protocols. Family members will be required to sit together and assigned seats may be implemented to ensure contact tracing can be established.</p>	<p>VSD remote learning plan is designed to mirror the content of the traditional classroom experience, including rigor and quantity to ensure educational integrity. Staff will be available to answer questions parents may have at scheduled times. The School Board will determine what school sponsored activities remote students may or may not participate in at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>Elementary</b>-VSD staff will be assigned to engage with JK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be instructed at home. No Pre-school classes will be offered remote with the exception of a short hiatus if traditional school is temporarily closed by the Governor or by the school board due to Covid-19. Tuition costs will continue. Students will receive instruction from a VSD employee in core content areas daily. Homework and assignments will be sent home either as paper packets or in electronic form to be completed by the student daily and returned to the teacher for assessment. SEESAW will be the format for communication and assessment. Internet access will be needed. Exact time of daily instruction is yet to be determined.</p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>-Students requesting remote learning will remain part of the traditional class by electronic means. Remote students will maintain their class schedule and participate remotely with their teacher and peers. Homework and assessments will be turned in either by paper packet or in electronic format. Google platform will be used by all teachers for communication and assessment. Attendance is mandatory and a device will be provided for the student to do their homework. Internet access will be needed. Note- not all electives will be available for remote learning opportunities.</p>

**GRADING & ATTENDANCE**

VSD grading scale and daily attendance will be taken for both traditional and remote learning experiences.



# VERMILLION SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

Academic Supports



### Staff/Students/Parents

- Remote learning option will be available (K-12). Schedule TBD based on platform, model and enrollment. Students may use district devices.
- Grading will remain the same. Infinite Campus will be utilized for both traditional and remote learners.
- New staff hired to promote distancing and safety procedures. Reassign staff as needed to cover daily operational needs prioritizing student learning and safety.
- Commitment to ongoing and systematic communication to staff and families.
- Staff and students practice operational safety procedures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Promote cohorts, static groups limit interactions outside of classrooms.
- All JK-12 students will be assigned a district device.
- Students will have access to library books.

### Special Education/504 – FULL REVIEW FOUND ON PAGE 18

- Access to education will be reconfigured to meet social distancing guidance while meeting the needs of individual students. Some programs may meet in person daily based on IEP.
- Staff or schedules may be redesigned to provide access to individualized learning to meet IEP and 504 plans.
- Teacher schedules may be revised to limit travel as much as possible while providing services to students.

### Social and Emotional Health

- Focus on social and emotional health, inclusion and anxiety reduction.
- Work to introduce students to new look of school and classrooms before school starts, creating welcoming environments for learning.

### Schedule

- Class schedule will follow the school calendar. Schedule modifications (ex. Lunch/recess) as necessary – start/end of day bell times remain unchanged.
- PK-5, 'specials' may be provided in the classrooms. Physical education will use outdoor spaces when possible, follow CDC guideline for safety.
- Cohorts will be promoted at recess depending on the ability to social distance.
- Students will walk on the right side of hallways. MS/HS will lengthen passing periods.

### Dressing for Physical Education

- To minimize use of locker rooms, HS/MS Physical Education/Health/ Wellness classes will not dress or only dress on a limited basis.
- Elementary PE classes do not dress for PE.

Operations



**Pick-Up/Drop-Off of Students**

- School buildings will open at 7:45 am each morning. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- In most buildings, students will be asked to 'cohort' with their classmates to reduce contact with students outside of their normal school day. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Parents who can do so can assist the school by delaying student arrival until around 8:15 am. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Parents stay in their vehicle during pick-up and drop-off when possible. [Green][Yellow][Red]

**Entering/Exiting Buildings**

- Social Distancing practices will be in place for entering/exiting school buildings. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Students enter and exit through assigned doors. [Green][Yellow][Red]

**Masks**

- Masks will be required for all students and staff. Exceptions include, but not limited to, breakfast/lunch periods, physical education classes, individual health conditions. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- All visitors on district property are required to wear a mask until such a time as the pandemic is deemed to be over. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Parents will need to provide several masks for their child to wear. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- If your child forgets his/her mask, the school will provide one to your child. [Green][Yellow][Red]

- Accommodations: In classrooms with a student having a documented hearing impairment, masks that allow the speakers lips to be seen will be worn. Clear masks or facial shields will be worn by early literacy teachers, speech teachers, and others when situations require it. [Green][Yellow][Red]

**Building Adjustments**




- Removal of excess furniture, reconfiguring small group work spaces. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Floor/wall adhesives - 6' separation and directional arrow stickers in high traffic areas. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Plexiglas barriers in central offices. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Safety Signage – hand hygiene, social distancing, symptoms. [Green][Yellow][Red]

**Food Service**

- Masks will not be required during breakfast/lunch periods. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- When weather permits, students may be dining outside. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Salad bars will be eliminated. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Cafeteria supervisors will be promoting social distancing. Classrooms may be used. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Lengthening of lunch periods to promote distancing will be explored. [Green][Yellow][Red]

**Transportation Safety/Sanitation**

- Buses will be sanitized twice each day; after the morning route and again after the evening route. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Students will be required to wear masks during bus transportation; driver required to wear a mask, subject to SD Department of Transportation regulations. [Green][Yellow][Red]
- Students will be asked to cohort with members of their own families. [Green][Yellow][Red]

<p>Operations</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Distancing will be hard to achieve when students are transported to and from our exchange point. Parents will need to make an informed decision about their child's use of school transportation. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> </ul> <p><b>Visitors to School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To limit outside exposure, we will limit access to persons who are not school employees or students. Please make an appointment when you would like to visit. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• The school offices will be open to parents, upon confirmed appoint with building administration. Clerical and administrators will direct visitors as to building requirements. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• 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. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> </ul> <p><b>Facility Usage by Outside Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside groups, when permitted, and BSA will follow SD DOH Guidelines. Outside groups may be limited. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> </ul>
<p>Activities</p> 	<p><b>Extracurricular Activities – RETURN TO ACTIVITY PLAN BEGINS ON PAGE 22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, SD DOE, and SD DOH will be followed for all extracurricular activities. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• Decisions on seasons, events, games, practices will be forthcoming. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• Vermillion School District is using a Three Phase Summer Activities Approach. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> </ul>
<p>Health/Safety/Facilities</p> 	<p><b>Pre-Screening for Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents will screen their children at home for fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. They should document the screenings and retain at home. (Please see page 12 for screening checklist). <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• Call a medical professional if symptomatic. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• Students do not report to school if symptomatic. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> </ul> <p><b>Hand Washing/Sanitizing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce proper hand hygiene and COVID mitigation. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, near all entrances, and throughout hallways. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• Bathroom breaks will be scheduled in such a way as to encourage social distancing and promote frequent handwashing. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> </ul> <p><b>Touch Surface Cleaning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vermillion School District will use specific cleaning solutions documented to protect against the virus. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• The installation of hand sanitizing stations throughout school buildings. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> <li>• Increasing outside air intake to increase more fresh air into the buildings. <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span></li> </ul>

Health/Safety/Facilities



**Social Distancing**

- Social distancing of 6' will be expected when possible.

**Water Fountains**

- Spigots of water fountains for individual use will be closed off.
- Students are encouraged to use individual water bottles.

**Positive Cases and Response Amendment, see page 46**

- Vermillion School District will follow guidance from the SD DOH. As a result of their reports and investigations, the SD DOH will share with the district officials both individuals who are confirmed cases of COVID-19 as well as those identified as 'close contacts'. Such individuals will be required to be absent from the school setting for periods recommended by the DOH. During these absences, these individuals will engage in remote learning.
- Communications to families as recommended by the SD DOH.

**Response to Students who become COVID symptomatic during the day**

- Vermillion School District will follow guidance from the SD DOH.
- If a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student/staff member will be sent home.
- Classroom will be thoroughly cleaned.

**ONLINE RESOURCES**



- State of SD (Return to Normal) [https://covid.sd.gov/docs/COVID\\_SDPlan\\_BackToNormal.pdf](https://covid.sd.gov/docs/COVID_SDPlan_BackToNormal.pdf)
- Reopening Schools Checklist [https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Schools\\_ReopeningChecklist.pdf](https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Schools_ReopeningChecklist.pdf)
- SDDOE (Start Well Plan) <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>
- SDDOH <https://doh.sd.gov/>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>





**Students or Staff: Please complete this short check each morning before leaving for school.** Students or staff who are sick should not attend school in-person.

**Please check for the following Symptoms:**

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

**Please also check for any Exposure:**

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person infected with COVID-19\*, or
- Live in or traveled to a county where the SD-DOH is reporting **substantial spread** of COVID-19 cases
  - Visit the SD-DOH website at: <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx#SD>
  - Check the level of community spread in the county where you live or plan to travel:
    - Use your cursor to hover over the county, or
    - Click on *Tables* to see the county list

<p><b>ORANGE Symptom</b> Alone = Exclusion for COVID-19 not necessary. Follow existing school policy.</p>	<p><b>BLUE Exposure* + ORANGE Symptom =</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any individual with both symptom(s) AND exposure should contact their medical provider to discuss testing.</li><li>• Exclude individual while awaiting test result.</li><li>• If untested, exclude until 10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours without fever AND 24 hours after symptoms improved.</li><li>• When exclusion occurs due to living in or traveling to a county with substantial spread: a student or staff may return to school with a medical doctor's note if symptom(s) are due to an illness other than COVID-19.</li></ul>
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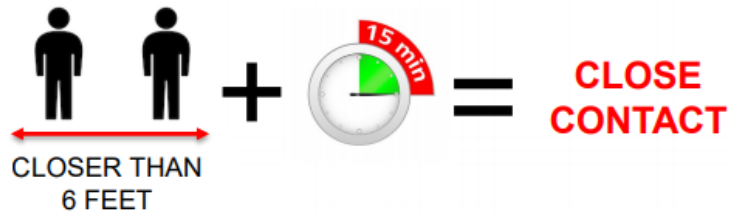
\*Close contacts that develop symptoms should call their medical provider to discuss testing. SD-DOH recommends that a close contact that tests negative for SARS-CoV-2 to complete their 14-day quarantine period.





## HOW DO I HELP DOH NARROW DOWN CLOSE CONTACTS?

As a rule, investigators are looking for students and staff who have been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer,




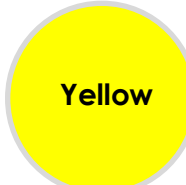


Other factors are considered, for example:

- Length of exposure in confined settings, heavy exertion, contact sports and other factors are considered when identifying close contacts.
- Masking is effective in reducing the risk of transmission to others but does NOT rule that person out as a close contact.



## RISK ASSESSMENT BY BUILDING

Staff members in each building will be in daily contact to monitor health indicators, which include the number of COVID-19 cases, the number of staff and students on campus who report illnesses, and a host of other data points. An update to the health risk status in the form of a four-tiered Color Code system will be posted – green (low); yellow (moderate); orange (heightened) and red (high). The code will be shared online and any changes in status (e.g. Green to Yellow or Yellow to Orange) will be communicated to families. When considering the color codes, priority of the level of alert will be the VSD classroom and building case numbers.

LEVEL OF ALERT	GENERAL CONDITIONS	LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	MASKS
 <b>Green</b> (low)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infections remain low in Vermillion</li> <li>• No known cases currently among staff and students in the buildings</li> <li>• Staff and students closely adhere to safety protocols</li> <li>• Confidence in outside epidemic control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School buildings are open</li> <li>• Limited cohort mixing</li> <li>• Outside volunteers are allowed in buildings</li> <li>• Outside groups may use school facilities as normal</li> </ul>	Encouraged
 <b>Yellow</b> (moderate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infections low, but starting to increase in Vermillion</li> <li>• Possible cases in school buildings</li> <li>• Staff and students closely adhere to safety protocols</li> <li>• Uncertainty in outside epidemic control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School buildings are open, but visitors may be limited</li> <li>• Elevated safety measures and PPE</li> <li>• Further reductions in cohort mixing</li> <li>• Activity capacity may be limited</li> <li>• Outside volunteers may be limited</li> <li>• Outside groups using school facilities may be limited</li> </ul>	Required
 <b>Orange</b> (heightened)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New infections increasing in Vermillion</li> <li>• Several possible cases in school buildings</li> <li>• Staff and students closely adhere to safety protocols</li> <li>• Waning epidemic control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School buildings are open, but visitors may be limited</li> <li>• Remote learning district wide under consideration</li> <li>• Activity capacity may be further limited</li> <li>• Food service may be moved to classrooms</li> <li>• No outside volunteers allowed in buildings</li> <li>• No outside groups allowed to use facilities</li> </ul>	Required
 <b>Red</b> (high)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poorly controlled community transmission in Vermillion</li> <li>• Multiple new infections in the school buildings</li> <li>• SD DOH or Governor has issued stay-at-home order or otherwise closed all schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School buildings are closed to students and outside groups</li> <li>• Remote learning for all students</li> <li>• Activities may be postponed</li> <li>• Food service may be Grab/Go</li> <li>• No outside groups allowed to use facilities</li> </ul>	Required

# Vermillion School District Return to School Plan

Together we connect, inspire and achieve.



This calendar is subject to change...

Vermillion School District 13-1  
2020 - 2021

1st NINE WEEKS					2nd NINE WEEKS					3rd NINE WEEKS					4th NINE WEEKS				
Aug. 3	4	5	6	7			Oct. 21	22	23	4	5	6	7	8				18	19
Registration 9-1				Freshmen Orientation 9-12					PLT			No Sch In-Service							
10	11	12	13	14	26	27	28	29	30	11	12	13	14	15	22	23	24	25	26
Registration 9-1			8th Grade Orientation 5-30																
17	18	19	20	21	Nov. 2	3	4	5	6	18	19	20	21	22	29	30	31	Apr. 1	2
Full Day In-service	Full Day In-service	Orientation Day	First Day						PLT	No Sch MLK Day								PLT	No Sch Easter
24	25	26	27	28	9	10	11	12	13	25	26	27	28	29	5	6	7	8	9
					16	17	18	19	20						No Sch Easter				
31	Sept. 1	2	3	4						Feb. 1	2	3	4	5	12	13	14	15	16
					23	24	25	26	27										
7	8	9	10	11			Thanksgiving Break			8	9	10	11	12	19	20	21	22	23
No Sch Labor Day					30	Dec. 1	2	3	4			P/T CONF	P/T CONF		26	27	28	29	30
14	15	16	17	18						15	16	17	18	19					
					7	8	9	10	11	No Sch President's Day					May. 3	4	5	6	7
21	22	23	24	25	14	15	16	17	18										
				No Sch In-Service						Mar. 1	2	3	4	5	10	11	12	13	14
28	29	30	Oct. 1	2	21	22	23	24	25						17	18	19	20	21
							No Sch	No Sch	No Sch	8	9	10	11	12				Last Day	
5	6	7	8	9	28	29	30	31	Jan. 1			PLT			24	25	26	27	28
			P/T CONF	P/T CONF	No Sch	No Sch	No Sch	No Sch	No Sch				Spring Break						
12	13	14	15	16			Christmas Break			15	16	17			31				
No Sch Native American															Memorial Day				
19	20																		

- 41 DAYS TAUGHT
- Yellow - No School
- Orange - Teacher In-Service
- Green - P/T Conferences
- Blue - 1:30 Dismissals
- Pink - First & Last Day

- 42 DAYS TAUGHT
- SMARTER BALANCE TEST WINDOW GRADES 3rd-8th & 11th

- 45 DAYS TAUGHT
- ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSES Monday, August 17th
- Austin 6-7pm
- Jolley 6:30-7:30pm

- 44 DAYS TAUGHT
- 2021 Prom-Saturday, April 17th
- 2021 Graduation - Saturday, May 15 @ 2:30pm

○ MidTerms

TOTAL DAYS TAUGHT: 172 Days/179 Contracted Days  
Snow Days to be made up at the end of the year.



## Vermillion School District Special Services (Special Education, English Learners, Section 504 Plans)

The VSD Special Services Department is committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities in their Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for students with special needs while following the Department of Health/CDC guidelines and guidance from the state of South Dakota. Special Services encompass special education students, English Language Learners and those served by a 504 Plan.

### Special Education

Collaboration with families will continue to be an integral part of the special education process. To address the individual needs of each student with disabilities, special education staff will continue to work with families to identify essential services that can be provided both directly and indirectly when in on-campus learning or remote learning. Parents/Guardians have the right to choose on-campus traditional learning or remote learning. Remote learning for individual students or groups of students will be addressed by the district staff while following State/CDC/DOH guidelines. Traditional and remote learning environments may fluctuate throughout the school year. In collaboration with families, Individual Education Plans (IEP) may be adjusted, as needed, for the circumstances of the learning environment based on students' needs and services.

### English Language Learners

Students will continue to be screened and identified through a process in person, if on-campus or through other means following State/CDC/DOH guidelines.

### 504 Plans

Accommodations/Adaptations for students who have a 504 Plan will continue to provide to the extent necessary both on-campus and remote learning environment. Some changes may be necessary to the 504 Plan depending on the location of the services and what the needs of the student are given that environment. The 504 Coordinator will reach out to each of the students and their families to review the plan to ensure that any updates needed will be documented.

### Child Find and Evaluations

VSD will continue to identify, locate, and evaluate students (ages Birth to 21) suspected of having a disability. The district will also continue to use the Problem-Solving Team (PST) to aid in identifying students and determining if more interventions are needed and/or if the student should be referred to special education for an evaluation.

### Individual Education Plans/ IEP Meetings

Vermillion School District is committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Special education staff will continue to collaborate with families throughout the school year, along with providing progress reports on IEP goals to families. The Vermillion School District may have meetings in person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone.



# School District Counseling

- No home visits will be conducted until further notice.
- Zoom, phone calls or other means will be used to meet with families.
- Remote learners will have access to counselors and school social worker.
- Families will be communicated with when a remote student is unengaged.
- Regular attendance and policies apply to students learning remote.
- Group and individual counseling sessions will be held, while promoting social distancing, masks required.

<b>Austin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact remote learners as needed.</li> <li>• Guidance lessons may be provided in classrooms.</li> </ul>
<b>Jolley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact remote learners as needed.</li> <li>• Guidance lessons may be provided in classrooms.</li> <li>• When conducting groups, social distancing will be promoted.</li> </ul>
<b>Middle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact remote learners once a week for the first three weeks of school – as needed after.</li> <li>• Survey students for concerns of anxiety or depression. Formulate group times based on results, while promoting social distancing.</li> </ul>
<b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will meet with students one on one for schedule changes.</li> <li>• Only 3 individuals allowed in the 'lobby' area. Social distancing promoted and masks required.</li> </ul>

THIS PAGE AND THE FOLLOWING PAGE WILL BE UTILIZED BY SCHOOL NURSES & SENT HOME WITH STUDENTS EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS.

## Vermillion School Health Office

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

When did it start: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you recently seen a doctor for this: \_\_\_\_\_

Temp: \_\_\_\_\_ Pulse: \_\_\_\_\_ Respirations: \_\_\_\_\_ O2Sat: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 1: COVID-19 Symptom Screening:

- Temp 100.4 or higher \*
- Sore Throat
- New uncontrolled cough
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever
- New loss of taste or smell

### Section 2: COVID-19 Contact Screening:

- Current level of community transmission in Clay County is substantial on today's date according to the SD Department of Health website
- Have been in close contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks
- Have been in close contact with someone that has been under quarantine in the past 2 weeks
- Have traveled to location where large numbers of COVID-19 are reported in the past 2 weeks

- Student may return to class if a symptom is checked in Section 1 (with the exception of fever) and no boxes checked in Section 2.
- Students will be sent home with fever of 100.4 or higher.
  - Student may return to school after 24 hours' fever-free WITHOUT use of medication, IF no boxes are checked in Section 2
  - Students will be sent home due to COVID-19 Protocol if any one box is checked in **BOTH Section 1 & 2**. See next page for RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES.

## Return to School Guidelines for COVID-19

### 1. Clearance from medical provider:

- Make arrangements with medical provider for COVID-19 testing or to rule out COVID-19.
- Provide documentation *from your provider* or complete the bottom of this form and return to school to be cleared for return.

**OR**

### 2. Symptom-based strategy:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (return date: \_\_\_\_\_)
- AND at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without use of fever-reducing medication
- AND improvement of symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, etc.)

**\*Students will be expected to continue school work through remote learning unless exceptions met.**

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**As the parent/guardian, I authorize the exchange of information between the Vermillion School District Nurse and the Healthcare Provider listed below relating to my child's current health concern identified on Section 1 of this document.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

---

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**Medical Facility:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Provider:** \_\_\_\_\_

- COVID-19 Testing done (Date: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - Isolate at home and await test results
- COVID-19 Test results (Date: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - Negative – Student cleared for return to school
  - Positive – Student to remain at home in isolation and follow Symptom-based strategy
- Symptom not related to COVID-19
  - Student cleared for return to school
  - Student may return on this date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





# VSD RETURN TO ACTIVITY PLAN

The following has been created using the recommendations from the CDC, SDHSAA, and NFHS.

- The guidelines are subject to change based on current conditions. They will be re-evaluated periodically.
- Safety of VHS participants is the highest priority and decisions are made based on what is best for our participants.
- Decreasing potential exposure to respiratory droplets is the guiding principle behind social distancing and the use of face coverings.

### Sport/Activity Categories released by NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory:

- Lower Risk: Sports/Activities that can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between use. (Examples: Golf, weight training, sideline cheer, individual running events, tennis, cross country, throwing events like shot put, journalism, debate, oral interp.)
- Moderate Risk: Sports/Activities that involve close, sustained contact, with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission or intermittent close contact or group activities or sports/activities that use equipment that cannot be cleaned between participants. (Examples: Basketball, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, high jump, pole vault, 7 on 7 football, one-act play.)
- Higher Risk: Sports/Activities that involve close, sustained contact between participants with lack of significant protective barriers which create a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. (Examples: Football, wrestling, competitive cheer/dance, All-State Chorus, Orchestra.)

The NFHS has proposed rule modifications for Fall sports. Recommendations from SDHSAA staff on those rule modifications fall under three categories- mandatory, optional, and impermissible. Those rule modification recommendations along with Fine Art considerations are attached.

## Stages for all Vermillion Activities, Sports & Attendance

<b>GREEN</b>	All activities, sports, and attendance as normal. Practices/ Events/ Travel may occur at all levels.
<b>YELLOW</b>	Practices/Events/Limited Travel/ Essential (athletes, coaches, officials, event staff, medical staff, parents and students allowed at events/ (Non-essential) allowed to attend events in limited capacity.
<b>ORANGE</b>	Practice Only/Limited events/Limited Travel/ Parents or students only or no fans. Essential workers only
<b>RED</b>	No Practice/ No Events/ No Travel



## RETURN TO ACTIVITY HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

### A. Screen for signs of COVID-19:

- All rostered individuals will be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a practice/game/event, or any travel.
- Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored securely and in compliance with privacy laws so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19.
- Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed to participate and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- People at risk for COVID-19 should consult with their medical provider regarding participation in athletic activities.

### B. Protocol for Confirmed Close Contact and Positive Cases:

- ALL indications of positive cases and confirmed close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes of time starting two days prior to symptom onset) must come through the South Dakota Department of Health.
- Any Department of Health verified close contact must follow SDDOH guidelines. Currently, those guidelines require a 14-day quarantine from the date of contact away from school and daily screening of symptoms. **Amendment, see page 46**
- Any Department of Health verified positive case must follow SDDOH guidelines. Currently, those guidelines require the individual to self-isolate for 10 days from the first onset of symptoms and must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. SDHSAA Covid-19 Return to Play Form is required for re-entry in participation. Schools must notify the SDHSAA of any verified close contact or positive cases of rostered individuals via the SDHSAA School Zone. No personally identifiable information will be contained in the notification to the SDHSAA. All information will be treated in compliance with HIPAA and FERPA from the member school and the SDHSAA.

### C. Practice Good Hygiene

- Athletes, coaches, officials, and staff should wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces. Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap before touching any surfaces or participating in workouts or contests.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- All are encouraged to wear face coverings while in public and when social distancing is not possible.
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment/surfaces.
- No pre-game and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps in any activity.
- Students will be encouraged to shower and wash their practice/game clothing as soon possible when finished with practices or games.

### D. Travel

- When using a bus, students and staff will sit appropriately spaced within the bus.
- Sports teams and activities should limit travel to only those who will play/participate particularly when long trips are required by bus or van.
- Students will wear face coverings while in a school vehicle/bus.
- Transportation staff will clean and disinfect high contact areas on a frequent basis.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each bus/van in which athletes will use when they enter and exit the school vehicle.
- Students will be socially/physically distanced as possible – family members may sit multiple to a seat.
- We will load the bus from back to front and exit from front to back.
- All who ride the bus will sit in the same seat to and from the activity.
- If requested in advance the athlete may request travel to and from an event with parent/guardian

**Head Table:** Only essential workers will be allowed in this area. Managers, statisticians, trainers, etc. must sit in the bleachers to allow for social distancing at the head table.

**Bench area or sideline:** Only coaches and athletes in uniform will be allowed on the bench or sideline to allow for social distancing (Medical personnel can be an exception on the sideline). Benches will be spread apart as much as possible. Only team personnel who may play in the contest will dress to allow for social distancing. If there are not enough chairs in the bench area, the extra players must sit in the bleachers behind the bench. **Masks for players not playing are recommended but not required.** All athletes should use hand sanitizer, provided at the head table, before entering and exiting the playing court.

**Concessions:** Vermillion will follow the COVID-19: FOOD CONCESSION STAND FOR SCHOOL AND TEMPORARY EVENTS put out by the SD Department of Health.

### OTHER GUIDELINES:

1. Guidance regarding social distancing and hygiene will be posted at facility entrances and high traffic areas.
2. The use of masks by spectators will be mandatory at all indoor activities.
3. Spectators at game will be a local decision. The host school MUST inform the visiting school in advance if any restrictions are in place as early as possible. If school want to save sections for social distancing, those should be clearly marked and advertised.
4. Facility cleaning guidance for the summer should be continued throughout the school year.
5. SDHSAA will determine if a contest is a “no contest” or “forfeit”. This will be outlined in the SDHSAA Fall Sports/Activities Task Force Plan.
6. Goals for all schools should be consistent:
7. Do what is best for ALL kids.
8. Do what is best to start and end each season.
9. Follow in-season modifications outlined by SDHSAA and let visiting schools know of procedures to follow when traveling to the host school at least a day or two in advance.



## SDHSAA FALL 2020 RULE MODIFICATIONS

Rule modifications are divided into three categories:

1. Mandatory- rule changes that must be followed until further advised
2. Optional- rules allowances that may be utilized if desired until further advised
3. Impermissible- items that are not allowed by SDHSAA rule

### **GOLF MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS**

- Follow all rules published by the host course and USGA guidelines that are in place for spectators, competitors, and coaches alike. This includes leaving the flagstick and hole-barrier in place if the course is using that system for regular season play.
- No-Touch Scorecards shall be used. The USGA and Golf Genius are working on a tutorial to show how this can be provided free of charge through the USGA Tournament Management App on any mobile device with a data connection. Rules regarding illegal use of electronic devices will remain in place for competitors.
- Fans/Spectators and Rules Officials shall maintain a 6' distance from all players throughout the round.
- No Awards Ceremonies following play. Meet management shall distribute all awards to coaches, who will then present to the athletes. No draping of competitors in ribbons/medals.
- No common distribution of water accessible to multiple parties.
- Clean frequently touched areas and provide ample hand sanitizer at all practices and contests.

### **OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS**

- Consider "putting through" or "uninterrupted putting" by players when on the green to allow for safer distancing as the golfers who are not up are able to remain distanced on/around the green.
- Consider "Circle 10" option for scoring, where if a player exceeds 10 shots on a hole, they simply pick up. This allows for more consistent pace of play throughout events.
- Athletes and coaches are allowed to wear masks/face coverings, and are invited to bring their own water bottle.
- Galleries should be limited to "paths only" and keep 6' of distance between themselves and others throughout the round.

### **TENNIS MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS**

- Use numbered sets of tennis balls, with a different number for each competitor/doubles team, and only handle your numbered tennis balls. Clean balls with Lysol or Clorox.
- Maintain social distancing as possible during play. Avoid fist bumps or handshakes prior to or following the contest.
- Use your racquet or foot to move balls from your side to your opponent's side.
- Switch court sides on opposite sides of the court.
- Clean frequently touched objects and areas and provide ample hand sanitizer for athletes and coaches.

### **OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS**

- Athletes and coaches are allowed to wear face masks/coverings.
- Athletes should use their own water bottle.



### **SOCCER MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS**

- Rule 5-2: Pregame Conference should only be attended by the Head Coach and one captain from each team, be held at midfield with social distancing of 6' encouraged
- Rule 6: Ball holders shall be given similar screening as athletes and officials prior to working the game and should maintain 6' of space throughout the contest from one another as possible
- Rule 1: Team Bench areas may be expanded to allow more space for distancing. Areas must be marked by cones or lines to delineate what is and is not allowable space, and should not extend beyond the front line of the penalty area.
- Officials' Table and Press Box areas should be limited to essential personnel only. Team Statisticians other than an official book shall remain in their team or spectator areas.
- Post-Game – Officials should immediately leave the field area and not linger to shake hands with teams following competition.
- No common distribution of water accessible to multiple parties.
- Clean frequently touched areas, and provide ample hand sanitizer at all practices and contests

### **OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS**

- Athletes, coaches and officials are allowed to wear masks/face coverings, and are invited to bring their own water bottle.
- Pre-Game introductions, if held, should be done immediately in front of each team's bench area (touch line) and not in the traditional "World Cup" format". No pre-game handshake lines should occur.

### **IMPERMISSIBLE MODIFICATIONS**

- Officials may \*not\* use an electronic whistle or noise-maker without prior, specific, authorization from the SDHSAA office.

### **COMPETITIVE CHEER AND COMPETITIVE DANCE MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS**

- Sideline Cheer (2-1-14, 2-1-16)- Participants shall be appropriately spaced on the court, field, or sideline to ensure proper social distancing
- Cheer (3-1-1)- Any mask worn during a routine that does not involve stunting but involves tumbling must be taped and secure.
- Dance (4-1-1)- Any mask worn during a routine that involves tumbling must be taped and secure

### **OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS**

- Cheer- Athletes should maintain their equipment themselves and there should be no other shared equipment, including, but not limited to: water bottles, poms, megaphones, and signs.
- Cheer- Coaches should consider working with stunt groups in "pods" to limit the number of close contacts between students.
- Cheer- Masks may be worn if not stunting or tumbling.
- Dance- Masks may be worn (see note above if tumbling)
- Dance- It is recommended that social distancing be considered when creating routines.
- Cheer/Dance- Shoes and hands should be sanitized prior to going on the performing surface.
- Cheer/Dance- Mat/surface areas should be sanitized regular per manufacturers recommendations.
- Cheer/Dance- It is recommended that there be no medal ceremonies.

### **IMPERMISSIBLE MODIFICATIONS**

- Cheer (3-1-1): No masks may be worn in routines that involve stunting.



### **CROSS COUNTRY MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS**

- Rule 8-1-3: Course must be widened to ensure 6' of width at its most narrow point
- Finish Corral/Chute: Removal of the "Chute" as an option for the finish area, and instead all meets must establish a "Corral" of over 100' in length and 12' in width to accommodate finishers
- Awards: No awards ceremonies following play. Distribute awards directly from meet administration to coaches to provide to athletes. No draping of medals on competitors
- Starting Boxes: Design start area with boxes of 6' in width, with an empty 6' box between each school/team. If unable to accommodate in a straight line, consider use of a staggered, wave or interval start.
- No common distribution of water accessible to multiple parties.
- Clean frequently touched areas and provide ample hand sanitizer at all practices and contests.
- Spectators must not have access to athletes and should be restricted to areas outside of the 6' course width and a minimum of 6' away from team camps, starting and finish areas.

### **OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS**

- For Students: Masks/face coverings may be worn. Each athlete should be required to bring their own water bottle.
- Team Camp areas, if permitted, should be isolated from spectators or other non-essential personnel. Team camps should be only available to members of that specific team, and not a shared/common space.

### **FOOTBALL MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS**

- Rule 1-2: Team Boxes may be extended length-wise to the 15-yard lines on either end to promote social distancing of 6' from one another in the team box.
- Rule 1-3: Game Balls may be rotated more frequently than previously allowed to ensure cleaning and sanitization of balls between downs. "Ball Boys" should practice social distancing and must remain on their own teams' sideline or end-zone area during the contest (and not on the opponent's sideline).
- Rule 1-5: Face masks with integrated visors that connect to the entirety of the mask may be worn, as long as the visor is 100% clear and free of tint.
- At this time – Cloth masks and face coverings are not permissible, as they affect the legality of and ability to properly wear chin straps and mouth guards. The NFHS SMAC will be releasing additional guidance on this matter soon.
- Rule 2-6 & 3-5: Charged Time-Outs are to be 120 seconds in length. Conferences during Charged Time-Outs must be held within the nine-yard marks on the field and not at the sideline. More than one coach, however, may now be part of this nine-yard mark conference, and, technological devices may be used in this conference.
- Rule 3-5: Quarter Breaks are to be 120 seconds in length as well and follow the same guidelines as above for a charged time-out.
- Coin Toss: Only FOUR captains may attend per team. Eliminate handshake as required in manual.
- Line-To-Gain Crew shall be located on the HOME team's sideline, regardless of orientation to press box. Chain-gang crew shall not enter the playing field. If a measurement is needed, officials should deliver chains to the field, not the chain crew.
- Eliminate individual introductions of players/tunnel line from all contests. Starting Units can be introduced, but not with the run-through action of athletes as names are called.





### **FOOTBALL MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS CONTINUED...**

- No common distribution of water accessible to multiple parties. Each athlete must have his or her own Water Bottle. Officials should provide/be provided their own, specific beverage containers as well.
- Clean frequently touched areas, and provide ample hand sanitizer at all practices and contests
- NO NON-TEAM PERSONNEL IN THE TEAM BOX. Media and others must remain outside of the team box area at all times.

#### **OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS**

- Strongly Encourage facilities that use a shared sideline for both teams to reconfigure so that each team has their own sideline to enhance distancing.
- Consideration that the only field-level personnel during contests are officials and team personnel. Media, parents, spectators, cheerleaders, etc., should be in a socially distant area of the facility away from the onfield action.

#### **IMPERMISSIBLE MODIFICATIONS**

- Gloves, if worn, must still meet the NOCSAE/SFIA specifications and cannot be non-compliant and worn during a football contest.
- Officials may \*NOT\* use an electronic whistle/noisemaker without prior, specific, authorization from the SDHSAA office.

### **VOLLEYBALL MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS**

- Prematch Conference (1-2-4a; 1-6-2; 1-6-3; 2-1-10; 5-4-1h, k; 5-6-1; 7-1-1; 7-1-1 PENALTIES 1; 9-1a; 12-2-3) Limit attendees to one coach from each team, first referee and second referee. o Move the location of the prematch conference to center court with one coach and one referee positioned on each side of the net. All four individuals maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet. Coaches will indicate to the officials how many players are listed on their roster so officials will verify for the match. Suspend the use of the coin toss to determine serve/receive. The visiting team will serve first in set 1 and alternate first serve for the remaining non-deciding sets.
- Roster Submission: Suspend roster submission at the prematch conference. Rosters are submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10-minute mark.
- Line up submission: Coaches will turn in a small court sample or service order for HOME team and VISITING team for each set at the table.
- Team Benches (5-4-4b, 9-1-2, 9-1-2 NOTE, 9-3-3b) Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches between sets. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present. Limit bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet where possible. Only team personnel allowed on the benches. Stats/managers/book keepers etc. should find areas to other than the bench to sit.
- Deciding Set Procedures [1-2-4b, 5-4-4c, 5-5-3b(26), 9-2-3c] Move the location of the deciding set coin toss to center court with team captains and the second referee maintaining the appropriate social distance of 3 to 6 feet. A coin toss, called by the home team, will decide serve/receive. Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches before a deciding set. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present.





### **VOLLEYBALL MANDATORY MODIFICATIONS CONTINUED...**

- Substitution Procedures (2-1-7, 10-2-1, 10-2-3, 10-2-4) Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line. Athletes shall use hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving the contest. No high five or contact on the substitution exchange.
- Officials Table (3-4) Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer, libero tracker and timer with a recommend distance of 3 to 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.
- Line judges do not need to carry the ball with them to their standing position at the time-out by the first referee. Instead, the server should just set the ball on the service line and it will be available upon their return to play.
- Pre and Post match ceremony at the end of the timed warmup, only the starters/libero (if using one) will be permitted on the endline for national anthem and introductions. When announced step forward and back. Nonstarters will be at the bench practicing social distancing. The first referee and the line judge working on the first referee sideline stand to the right of the first referee's stand. The second referee and line judge working on the second referee's sideline stand to the right of the net post on the second referee's side. The referees stand closest to the respective poles. All should face the court for introductions and face the flag for the national anthem. After the national anthem and introductions, the first referee whistles and signals the players to enter the court. Line judges will take their respective positions, R2 will check the line-ups and play will begin. The handshakes both before and after the match will be eliminated.
- Officials and Athletes should bring their own water/water bottle.
- Have hand sanitizer located on each bench for athletes to use upon entering and exiting the contest (substitutions, timeouts, etc.)

### **OPTIONAL MODIFICATIONS**

- Teams should consider playing 20 dual matches and avoid tournament play until conference play and post-season events.
- Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES Cloth face coverings are permissible. (4-1-4) Gloves are permissible. (4-1-1)
- Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM Long sleeves are permissible. (4-2-1) Long pants are permissible. [4-2-1i (1)] Under garments are permissible, but must be unadorned and of a single, solid color similar in color to the predominant color of the uniform top or bottom. [4-2-1h (3), 4-2-1i (2)]
- Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT By state association adoption, long-sleeved, blue collared polo shirt is permissible. (5-3-1 NOTES 2) Electronic whistles are permissible. (5-3-2a, b) Cloth face coverings are permissible. Gloves are permissible.
- Disinfecting the ball, it is recommended to have someone in place to disinfect the game balls between sets and during timeouts. Another option would be to have a sanitized ball at the table ready for use, if needed.
- Two ball carts should be used, one for each team. Teams only use ball cart assigned.
- Media, spectators etc. should practice social distancing at all times in the stands.
- Site administration needs to come up with safety plans for entering and exiting courts.



## SDHSAA Fall 2020 Fine Arts Considerations

### Journalism:

- o In-person workshop sessions would need a plan for social distancing.
- o Online workshop sessions would be an option.
- o The state convention would have over 220 participants. If held, procedures would need to be in place for social distancing, staggered registration times, and the awards ceremony.

### All-State Chorus and Orchestra:

- o Orchestra auditions could be done via recording to minimize student exposure.
- o In-person auditions themselves could be accomplished, but procedures for those waiting to audition or waiting for auditions to finish must be developed.
- o The state event itself involves approximately 1,100 students who come from over 150 different schools.
- o Hotels may be an issue if rooms are limited to 2 people per room.
- o If restaurants are limiting seating, finding available food options during break for 1100 kids plus several hundred advisors may be difficult.

### Oral Interp:

- o District and region contests could be conducted virtually if necessary, with District and Region Chairs facilitating the contests.
- o Alternates would need to be chosen at the district and region level. The alternates would advance if advancing schools or participants are unable to attend.
- o At the state competition, only competitors and judges would be allowed in the room.
- o Many small gathering areas would be necessary, as opposed to the normal large gathering area.
- o If there is a state competition, plans would need to be implemented for social distancing and award ceremonies.

## What Lunchtime Solutions is doing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

As the beginning of the school year approaches, we know schools and families face difficult decisions and obstacles from the impact of COVID-19. As your school food service provider, Lunchtime Solutions is taking action to provide a safe work environment for our employees and a safe food service experience for our student customers. These actions include tools and employee training for executing our program in your schools safely, including changes in operations and the number of entrée choices we serve.

Our commitment to safety has never been more important as we face the challenges of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

### Changes in the foodservice program:

You may notice several changes in breakfast and lunch service as your student returns to school in the fall. Dependent on your school and local health advisories, there could be several things that look different; however, you can still expect healthy and delicious food options that your student will enjoy and that meet USDA regulations as part of the National School Lunch Program.

1. **Options:** To begin the school year, menu options will most likely be limited, and your student may notice less choices offered daily. Our options, even though limited, will be choices the students love, ensuring a high level of satisfaction.
  - a. If students visit the cafeteria and come through the line, every option will be individually wrapped or served directly to students, making self-serve stations limited to obsolete.
    - i. Decreasing choices while still serving options will help keep the line moving faster with less congestion and crowding of students. This in turn, will provide a safer food service experience for student customers.
    - ii. When possible, we have transitioned most options to individually wrapped items to further increase safety measures.
  - b. If schools opt to have students eat in the classroom, options could be limited due to ordering and delivery constraints.
  - c. Students will see fewer offerings in fruits and vegetables.
    - i. As an additional safety measure, self-serve fruit and veggie bars will be eliminated and replaced with staff serving students fruit and vegetable choices. To the best of our ability we will offer choices that students like and will eat. How these will be served will be dependent on each school building.
2. **Supply shortages:** Food and supply shortages are very fluid, and we ask for your patience with our staff as menu option changes are inevitable.
  - a. Many suppliers are seeing challenges with providing everything we order due to manufacturing and supply chain limitations related to COVID-19.
    - i. You may have experienced this personally when you go to the grocery store or order groceries online.
  - b. Due to these potential shortages, some items are no longer available, and some will be substituted with similar options.
  - c. Our menus may change without notice due to supplier shortages.

**Staff Requirements to mitigate risk:**

We understand and empathize with the uncertainty of the situation you, as our customers, are experiencing. We want you to be aware of our prevention and response protocols as well as our plan to help our employees, student customers, schools and communities prioritize the safety of everyone utilizing food service. Below is a high-level outline of the trainings, guidance, and safety protocols that have been put in place for every operation, at every school based off CDC recommendations and guidance:

**1. Kitchen Area Signage**

- a. Signs will be posted in the kitchen and they will serve as ongoing reminders to support our trainings on COVID-19 transmission and prevention, including face coverings, physical distancing, and hygiene.
- b. Signs will also be posted in the serving areas reminding students to stay 6-feet apart and to, " please only take the food they touch".

**2. Daily Health Assessments & Temperature Screenings**

- a. Prior to reporting to their work location, all foodservice employees are required to complete a daily health questionnaire provided by Lunchtime Solutions. This daily health screening includes a temperature check and a self-assessment of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC.

**3. Physical Distancing & Face Coverings**

- a. To the extent feasible, employees will attempt to maintain at least 6-feet of physical distance in all interactions with fellow employees and customers.
- b. All employees are required to wear a face covering when 6-feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained and at all times when serving students and district personnel.

**4. Vendor & delivery driver protocols**

- a. All vendors are required to wear face coverings while delivering product or when in a school kitchen.

**5. Hygiene & Disinfection Protocols**

- a. Additional cleaning & disinfecting practices are being completed to ensure high touch areas are sanitized multiple times per day.

Lunchtime Solutions is partnering with your school to navigate any health emergency and to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19. Together we will work to optimize nutrition while ensuring the health and safety of the students and communities we serve.

If you have any questions or concerns about the program or our mitigation protocols, please call your Food Service Director. Rachelle Loutsch (303) 519-9208 [r.loutsch@lunchtimesolutions.com](mailto:r.loutsch@lunchtimesolutions.com)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### **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, remote students will be held accountable for the same eligibility requirements for grades, attendance, etc. as on-campus students.



**Q- How will students take district and state assessments if they are learning remotely?**

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 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- 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- CDC, SD DOH, SD DOE 'Starting Well 2020' <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

**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- 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.



## Vermillion School District Return to School Plan

### GENERAL NOTIFICATION SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The South Dakota Department of Health has informed us that a student/staff in our school has been diagnosed with COVID-19. We are alerting parents to be watchful for children with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 illness during the next 14 days. If your child is identified as being a close contact to the COVID-19 case, the SD-DOH will contact you.

Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea

The COVID-19 virus is spread from person-to-person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Spread is more likely to occur when people are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes).

**If your child develops symptoms of any contagious disease**, including COVID-19, do not send him/her to school. If a healthcare provider is contacted, follow all directions on care and testing.

Precautions to avoid illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults or people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease, should take actions to reduce your risk of exposure (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>)

For more information on COVID-19, South Dakota's Information Line can be reach at (800) 997-2880 or visit <https://covid.sd.gov/>.

Sincerely,

Responsible Party

### CLOSE CONTACT SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 at [SCHOOL / CLASS / ACTIVITY]. The South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) is investigating the COVID-19 case and will notify you if your child is identified as a close contact. The COVID-19 virus is spread from person-to-person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Spread is more likely to occur when people are near each other (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes). Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Recommendations:

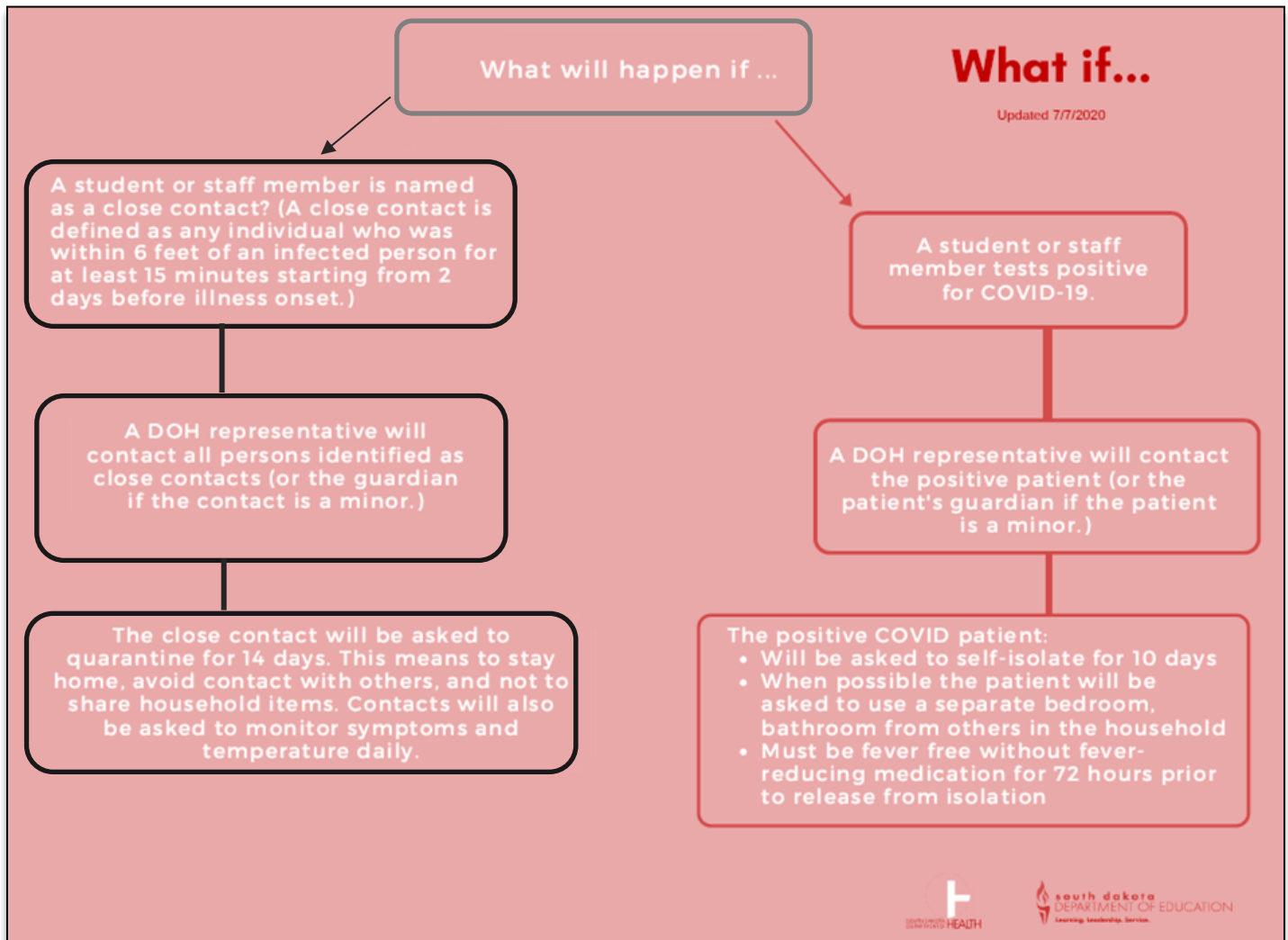
1. **Answer the call** from the SD-DOH as your child may be identified as a close contact to the COVID-19 case.
2. **Be watchful for symptoms** suggestive of COVID-19 illness that may appear in your child during the next 14 days.
3. **You do not need to keep your child at home** unless notified by the SD-DOH that your child should stay at home or your child develops symptoms of COVID-19.
4. **Take precautions to avoid illness**, including:
  - a. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
  - b. Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
  - c. Avoid close contact with people who are sick
  - d. Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
  - e. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
  - f. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
  - g. Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults or people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung, or kidney disease, should take actions to reduce your risk of exposure (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>)

If you bring your child to a healthcare provider for COVID-19 evaluation, please bring this letter with you. For more information on COVID-19, South Dakota's Information Line can be reach at (800) 997-2880 or visit <https://covid.sd.gov/>.

Sincerely,


Responsible Party

# FURTHER GUIDANCE PRESENTED BY:




# Screening Prior to Or During School


## SYMPTOMS TO LOOK FOR




Temperature of 100.4 or higher




Sore Throat



New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing



Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain











New onset of severe headache, especially with fever

Other symptoms include:  
loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or problem breathing, chills, muscle pain, runny nose, feeling nauseous, and poor appetite

Note: Symptom screenings will fail to identify some students (up to 16%) who have SARS-CoV-2 Infection.



**Not All Symptoms Will be a COVID-19 illness**

Symptoms of COVID-19	Strep Throat	Common Cold	Flu	Asthma	Seasonal Allergies
FEVER 	✓		✓		
COUGH 		✓	✓	✓	✓
SORE THROAT 	✓	✓	✓		✓
SHORTNESS OF BREATH 				✓	
FATIGUE 		✓	✓	✓	✓
DIARRHEA OR VOMITING 	✓		✓		
RUNNY NOSE 		✓	✓		✓
BODY/MUSCLE ACHES 	✓	✓	✓		

# Procedures for Isolating Symptomatic Students or Staff

Revised 9/12/20

*If a student or staff member exhibit symptoms during the school day, follow these recommendations.*

## Symptoms to look for:

- Temperature of 100.4 or higher;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing;
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever



## Additional evaluation for COVID-19 exposure

Assess whether symptomatic student/staff:

- Had close contact (within 6 ft. for at least 15 min.) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting substantial spread of COVID-19 cases;
- For the latest information on community spread go to <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>



## Have a separate isolation area

The Departments of Health and Education recommend each school have a separate area for students and staff who begin showing symptoms of COVID-19.

This area should be separate from the regular nurse's office or area.



## Evaluate the symptomatic student/staff and take action per protocol

If students/staff are having symptoms alone and no associated exposure events, students/staff should follow current school exclusion policies.



## Place a mask on the symptomatic person

Upon identification of symptoms, a mask should be placed on the symptomatic person and symptom control measures should be taken.



## Possible COVID-19 Case

Any individual displaying COVID-19 symptoms as well as possible exposure criteria should be directed to contact their healthcare provider to determine whether testing for COVID-19 virus is appropriate.



## Use proper protection

The individual staffing the area should wear appropriate protection (face mask, eye protection, gloves, etc.) as recommended by the CDC.



## Cleaning & Disinfecting

Clean and disinfect affected areas regularly. CDC recommends waiting for 24 hours after a COVID-19 exposure event, before cleaning. Once an area is appropriately disinfected, it can be reopened for use.





## CASE AND CONTACT DEFINITION

### CASE

Symptomatic and asymptomatic persons who test positive for COVID-19

### CLOSE CONTACT

The person that has had direct exposure to a person positive for COVID-19

- Has been within 6 feet, for at least 15 minutes of an infectious person
  - Exposure should all be evaluated individually as certain situations can alter distance and exposure time
    - Lack of ventilation, possibility of expelling more virus (coughing, yelling, singing, breathing hard)
- OR was exposed to direct respiratory secretions of the infectious person
  - Sneezed or coughed on

### CONTACT OF CLOSE CONTACT

A person that has had exposure to a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case

- There are NO exclusion recommendations or specific mask recommendations for an asymptomatic person



### *extra*

#### Previous positive case who retest positive within 90 days:

Case that test positive a 2<sup>nd</sup> time or more within 90 days will not be initiated as a new case for investigation. It is believed this is a redetection of the original case. It is improbable that it is a reinfection.

#### Previous positive case who are named as a close contacts:

If exposure occurs within 90 days of an individual testing positive for COVID-19 they will not have to quarantine.

#### Close contact that test positive during their quarantine period:

Initiate new case investigation.

## ISOLATION OR QUARANTINE

Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a **CONTAGIOUS DISEASE**.

**ISOLATION** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

**QUARANTINE** separates and restricts the movement of people who are exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

### ISOLATION

Isolation is for people who are **POSITIVE OR ALREADY SICK**.

- Isolation separates and restricts the movement of sick people so they can't spread disease.
- Isolation in a home means separating yourself from others in the household.
- A sick person isolating at home should seek medical treatment if unable to manage symptoms.
- Isolation is usually voluntary, but in a public health emergency. Officials have the authority to isolate people who are sick.
- Stop isolation only if you've had no fever for at least 24 hours; AND have symptom improvement; AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared

### QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for people who are **NOT SICK**, are a close contact and may have been exposed.

- Quarantined people may or may not become sick.
- Quarantined people should stay at home or another location so they don't unknowingly spread the disease.
- If you are quarantined and you become ill, you can seek medical treatment from a healthcare provider.
- Quarantine can be voluntary, but in a public health emergency, officials have the authority to quarantine people who have been exposed to an infectious disease.

## EXAMPLE:

### Identifying close contact period from a positive case's illness onset



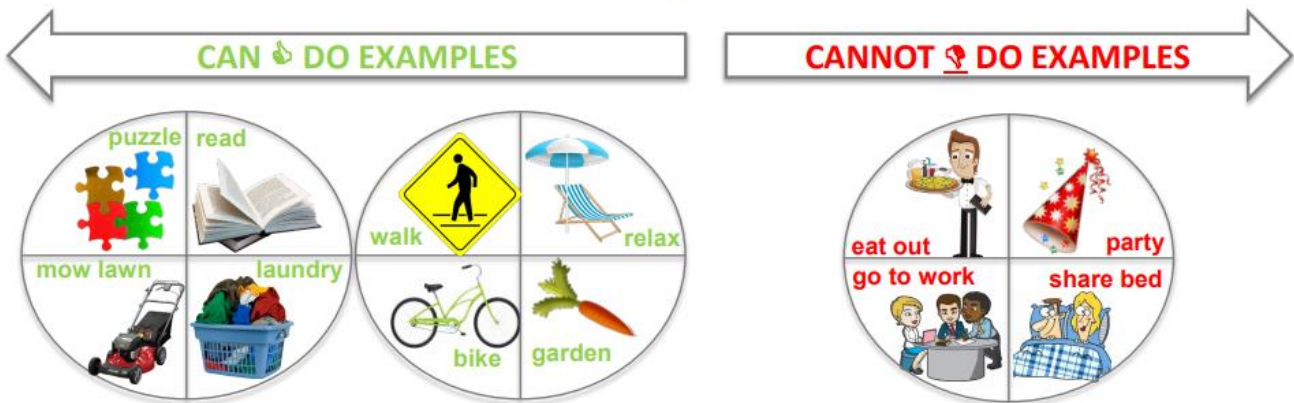
Q What is the period of time when an individual would be considered a close contact?



## ISOLATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSITIVE CASE

### DOH staff will provide positive case with isolation recommendations

- Explain importance of self-isolation
- Describe what isolation consists of
- Assess case's ability to self-isolate and need for social support
- Ask about isolation barriers and help brainstorm possible solutions
- Provide criteria for discontinuing self-isolation
- AND
- Provide process of follow-up for removal of isolation
- The positive case will be notified by DOH when they can be released from isolation
  - DOH will provide a letter to the family or staff member
  - The parent or staff member will be responsible for providing the letter if required by the school





**EXAMPLE:**

Calculating end of isolation period for positive case



Criteria for Removal from Isolation:

- 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and
- Fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications, and
- Improvement in symptoms



**ABILITY FOR SCHOOLS TO EXCLUDE SICK CHILDREN**

**13-28-7.3. Exclusion of student for risk of infectious disease or communicable parasite--Readmission.**

A school board or school superintendent may, with the concurrence of the county health officer, exclude from school attendance a student who is determined to be a risk or nuisance to the health of other students or school employees due to the presence of infectious disease or communicable parasite. A student may be readmitted when the school board or school superintendent, with the concurrence of the county health officer, determines that the state of communicability or infectiousness no longer exists.

# COVID-19 School Scenarios

Planning for the school year under multiple conditions

Prepared by the South Dakota Department of Health - Revised July 7, 2020



## Scenario One:

### No active cases in your community, and no cases in your school building

- The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

## Scenario Two:

### Active cases in your community, but no cases in your school buildings

- The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

## Scenario Three:

### Student or staff member identified by Department of Health as close contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside of the school community

- The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school should continue with appropriate preparedness measures in place.

## Scenario Four:

### Active case is identified in one of your school buildings

- The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials reassess processes - looking for gaps in prevention strategies. In the short-term, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (if feasible) before cleaning and disinfecting. Once area is appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.

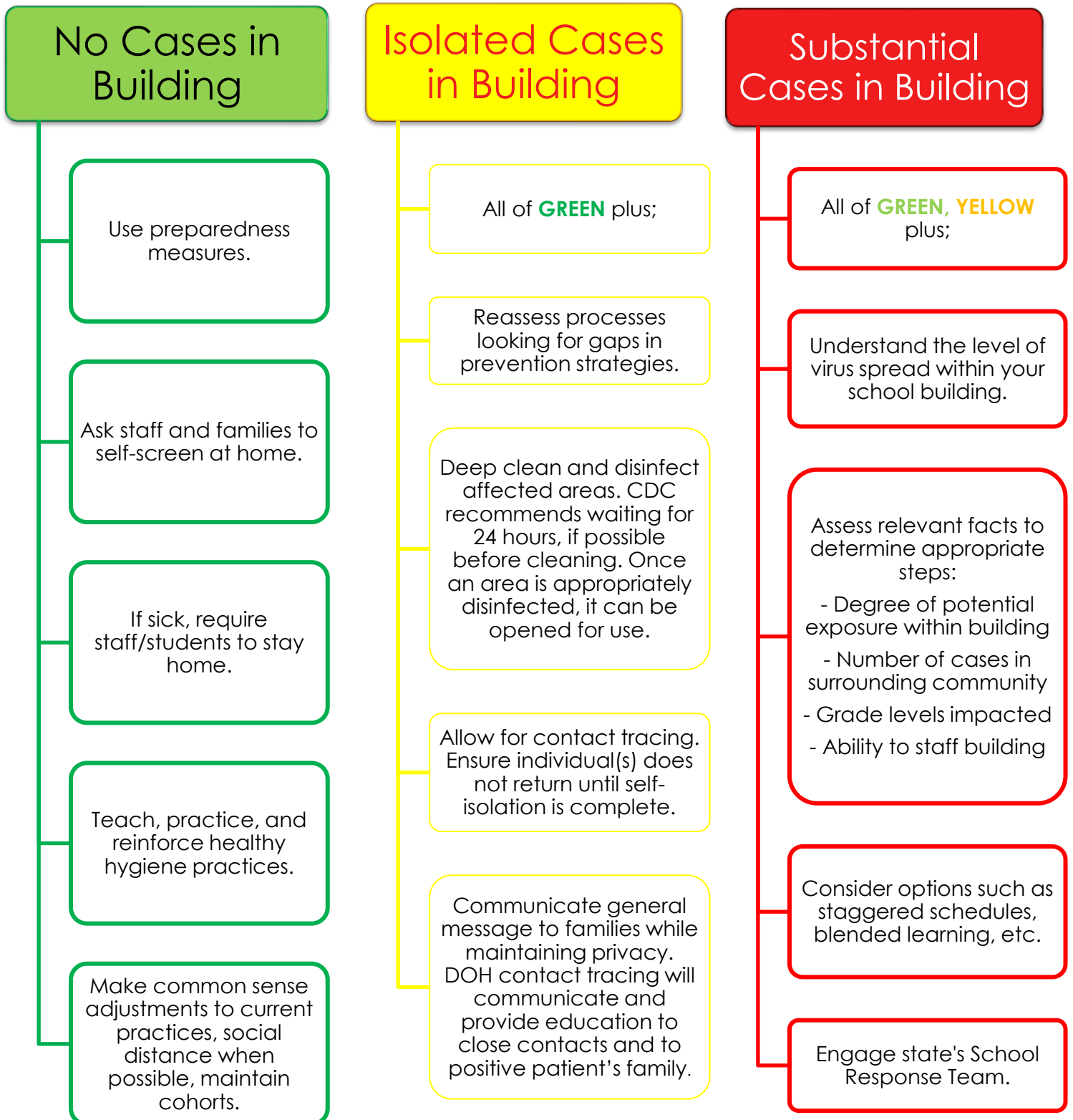
## Scenario Five:

### Multiple active cases identified in your buildings at the same time

- The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials review relevant data to understand level of virus spread within the school building and conduct a risk/benefit analysis of factors such as degree of potential exposure within building; case trends in surrounding community; grade levels impacted; remote learning options; scheduling options; ability to staff buildings, etc. in determining the next steps. School leaders can request technical assistance from the DOH/DOE School Response Team if desired.

# COVID-19 MITIGATION IN SCHOOLS

Updated 7/6/2020





# Amendments

## **Amendment 1: Board Approved, October 13, 2020**

1. Any remote education student who is failing two or more classes OR has 10 or more absences will be required to return to in-person traditional school.
2. Principals granted flexibility in modifying the RTSP at their building as necessary. Modifications made so long as they do not interfere with the RTSP in general.

## **Amendment 2: Board Approved, October 27, 2020**

1. Students who have been identified as close contacts – through contact at school – will not be required to move to remote learning. Close contact students will be allowed in the buildings during instructional time. Close contact students will be monitored at least twice per day, of their 14-day quarantine period, by school district nursing staff. Students will be required to self-screen at home and return screening checklist each morning to central office.
2. Students who have been identified as close contacts will not be eligible to participate and/or compete in extracurricular events.

## **Plan Continuation: Board Motion & Action, October 27, 2020**

Vermillion School District will follow fifteen consecutive minutes within 6 feet for close contacts.

## **Amendment 3: Board Approval, November 9, 2020**

1. VHS students taking dual credit classes at USD will be allowed to return to in person classes on USD campus beginning in January 2021 as long as all mitigations are followed.
2. VHS student participating in off school grounds internship activities may do so again beginning in January 2021 as long as all mitigations are followed.
3. VHS may adjust from the week long RED/WHITE schedule to an alternating day RED/WHITE schedule.
4. The school board has approved a change in calendar allowing the administration to create Friday dismissals at 1:30 as needed to provide staff with needed work time. This will be on a trial basis for December and January.
5. The superintendent has the authority to alter the RTSP as necessary based on the safety and wellbeing of the students and staff.

## **November 13, 2020 : Risk Assessment Level of Alert, status change to ORANGE**

### **November 16, 2020 : Special School Board Meeting Notes**

- Discussion on going REMOTE 2 days prior to Thanksgiving break - not at this time.
- Short Term Mitigation Actions:
  - Postpone youth and travel team activities/practices in buildings for two weeks.
  - Show Choir Fall Show will be live streamed, limited attendance of senior parents only.
  - Middle School Basketball will be live streamed, no spectators.

### **November 30, 2020 : Special School Board Meeting Notes**

A good discussion was held on our current state of positive COVID cases in the District and the good work that has been done. We are down cases from the last 2 weeks and we must continue to promote our mitigations.

#### **Motions and approvals on the following items:**

1. Limit spectators at upcoming in-person events (concerts, sports, etc.) the next 2 weeks to 20% capacity.
2. Youth activities may use school facilities as long as current school mitigation efforts are followed (masks worn, limited audience, no outside games).
3. Approve thank you bonus for substitute teachers and lunch personnel who qualify.
4. In school close contact exposures may participate in after school activities if they are following all mitigations and well checks, including wearing masks at practices while around other participants.





**December 7, 2020 : Special School Board Meeting Notes**

The Vermillion School amended the Return to School Plan with the following motions.

1. Reduce the required close contact quarantine from 14 days down to 10 days as according to new CDC guidelines
2. To allow the use of the rapid test/antigen test to allow asymptomatic staff and students to reduce required quarantine time from 10 days to 7 days according to new CDC guidelines. Other mitigations to continue.

CDC NEW DECEMBER 2020  
**QUARANTINE GUIDELINES\***  
 COMPARING THE NEW 7 & 10 DAY QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

 <b>7</b> <b>QUARANTINE THROUGH DAY 7</b> since date of last exposure	 <b>10</b> <b>QUARANTINE THROUGH DAY 10</b> since date of last exposure
Negative test result (specimen collected on Day 5 or later) and then release from quarantine after Day 7	<b>NO TEST NEEDED</b>
Person must remain asymptomatic prior to release and continue to monitor through Day 14	Person must remain asymptomatic prior to release and continue to monitor through Day 14
If a person has not received negative test results by Day 7, the person must remain in quarantine until their negative test result is received	<i>*Those in long-term care facilities          are encouraged to adhere to a          14-day quarantine period.</i>



**December 14, 2020: Special School Board Meeting Notes**

The Vermillion School amended the Return to School Plan with the following motions.

1. Return to **YELLOW** on color coded risk assessment chart.
2. Maintain general fan spectator numbers at 20% of available seating.
3. Approve Rhythm in Red Invitational Feb. 27, 2021 with adequate mitigations. A final determination will be made closer to date with updated COVID numbers.
4. Approve implementation of Governor Noem's Executive Order allowing exceptions to the completion of tenured teacher evaluations for 2020-21.



### January 11, 2021 : School Board Meeting Notes

The Vermillion School amended the Return to School Plan with the following motions.

1. Calendar change to continue Friday PLT early dismissals through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (Feb 5, 26, & Mar 5). Will reexamine for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
2. As of January 25<sup>th</sup>, the High School will return to 7 period day and rescind the red/white week.
3. Parent/Teacher conference schedule will allow for in-person, electronic, or zoom participation (mimicking the October conferences that were well received).
4. Allow for additional support staff to be hired for instructional interventions for "gap" students (students who are not attaining progress).
5. Allow the City Parks & Rec Dept to start adult league in 2 weeks if the county and School District has low or decreasing numbers of COVID cases. (Consider yellow in color coded risk assessment).
6. Continued support for administrator flexibility to make instructional decisions best for students and staff (more cohort group work in elementary, re-assigning staff to help cover recess or other needs, determining visitor/intern allowance in to building, flexible schedule, etc).

### February 8, 2021 : School Board Meeting Notes

Items discussed at the Feb 8, 2021 School Board meeting.

1. Continue with Friday early dismissals through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter- **Board decided to end early dismissals with March 5<sup>th</sup> as the last day.**
2. Prom- approve the date of April 17<sup>th</sup> and all activities going forth with mitigations.
  - a. **Yellow** Risk Assessment
    - i. Regular in school mitigations, Grand March live streamed with limited in person attendance, out of town guests allowed with waiver, dance will continue and after prom activities may be planned.
  - b. **Orange** Risk Assessment
    - i. Consider any other mitigations besides regular school mitigations including postponing the event, Live stream the Grand March, no out of town guests will be allowed, dance will continue and after prom activities may be planned.
  - c. **Red** Risk Assessment
    - i. Prom will be postponed.
3. PTO Carnival- approve a May date for the carnival with normal mitigations. Planning may move forward and a final decision will be made as we get closer to the expected date.
4. VSD Graduation- set for Sat May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at the Sanford Coyote Sports Center. At this time, normal attendance and mitigations.
5. Spectator attendance at events will be increased from 20% to 35%. Regular mitigations will continue.
6. Youth Sports- Youth sports groups may play games in the school facilities. This is limited to single game invites and not multi-team tournaments.
7. VSD is planning for a normal return to school this fall with no remote school options and all students returning to in-person learning. Food service, busing, and instructional services will return to normal formats. This will be reviewed as needed.
8. Fourth quarter 2021 at VSD will continue in its current format offering in-person and remote options through the end of the year. Students who continue to be unengaged or are missing 10 or more class periods or failing 2 or more classes will be asked to return to in-person learning.
9. Exploration of extended counseling services for after school hours was discussed, but not acted on.

### April 12, 2021 : School Board Meeting Notes

The Vermillion School amended the Return to School Plan with the following motions.

1. Masks optional at outdoor events,
2. Spectator attendance rate for indoor concerts, etc. to 50%,
3. No spectator limit at outdoor events.