



FALL 2021

VERMILLION SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

CLASSES RESUME AUGUST 19th

1001 E Main St | 605-677-7000

July 1, 2021

Board Approved 08.16.2021



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Vermillion School District Return to School Plan

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.

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.

This document is the District's plan for a safe return to instruction for the **2021-2022** school year based on the best information available at this time. Modifications to this plan are anticipated and should be expected based on the new information as it becomes available.

Guiding Principles for Reopening our School

- Our school will provide instruction throughout the 2021-2022 school year.
- COVID- 19 and its variants will continue to be present during the next school year.
- Schools can take practical steps to mitigate the spread of the virus while continuing to focus on student learning.
- Our district will make decisions based on the scientific information at the time, current status of virus spread in and around the school community, and what is in the best interests of staff, students, and families.
- As with any virus, the potential for exposure at some points in time may be extremely high.
- District plans are subject to immediate change, or modification, as the circumstances and recommendations from state and federal agencies changes.

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 .

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



Vermillion School District Return to School Plan

AUSTIN

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

- **EARLY CHILDHOOD, PRESCHOOL, JK, KINDERGARTEN**
 - Orientation will be Wednesday & Thursday, August 18th-19th
 - First Day of School for JK, & KINDERGARTEN will be Friday, August 20th
 - First Day of School for PRESCHOOL will be Monday August 23rd
- **1st GRADE**
 - Orientation will be Wednesday, August 18th 10:00am – 6:00pm
 - First Day of School will be Thursday, August 19th

JOLLEY – Wednesday, August 18th

- Orientation Conferences will be held on Wednesday, August 18th, in 15-minute intervals, between 10:00am – 6:00pm. Class lists will be finalized Thursday, August 12th. Parents will be sent a link to sign up for a conference time.
- Three 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 18th

6TH GRADE:

- 1:00pm** 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.
- 1:30pm** Dress Code / Before School information
- 1:40pm** 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
- 2:55pm** 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.

7TH & 8TH GRADE: Wednesday, August 18th 1:00-6:00pm

HIGH SCHOOL

GRADE 9 9:00- 12:00pm Friday August 13th

- HS Welcome and Freshman Orientation Activities
- Laptop Check-out
- Class Meeting and Student Handbook Review
- Students report to the Auditorium

GRADE 10 10:00 – 11:30am Wednesday August 18th

- Class Meeting and Student Handbook Review
- Laptop Check-out
- Students Report to the Auditorium

GRADE 11 12:30 – 2:00pm Wednesday August 18th

- Class Meeting and Student Handbook Review
- Laptop Check-out
- Students Report to the Auditorium

GRADE 12 2:00 – 3:30pm Wednesday August 18th

- Class Meeting and Student Handbook Review
- Laptop Check-out
- Students Report to the Auditorium



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. 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, Rachel Olsen, Jim Peterson, Carol Voss-Ward, Damon Alvey, Jon Frey, Jason Huska, Tom O'Boyle, Sam Jacobs, Kim Johnson, Amy Askew, Amy Pohlson, Joseph Delvaux, Trisha Fisher, Jean Hansen, Sara Hage, Melanie Mahowald, Trevor Mandernach, Roxane Olson, Darcy Sammelson, Bill Settles, Kelly Stone, Mindy Whisler, 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 and its variants, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 and its variants are 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 19^H



BUILDING SPECIFICS

<p>AUSTIN</p>	<p>Morning Routine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast starts at 7:55am. • ALL doors will electronically open at 8:05AM (except the gym/lunchroom) • Students will enter through their designated grade-level entrance. • Students not eating breakfast will go to the playground, until the bell rings at 8:05. Then they will report to class. • Students walking, biking, or being dropped off will be recommended to do so as close to 8:15am as possible. <p>Recess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Grade level will have recess together. <p>Lunchroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added time to the lunch schedule, allowing less students in the lunchroom at a time. We will be utilizing more tables and seating areas. <p>After School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be staggered release times for students riding the school bus. • Students getting picked up will exit through their designated doors.
<p>JOLLEY</p>	<p>Morning Routine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION WILL START AT 7:45AM • Breakfast starts at 7:55am. • ALL doors will electronically open at 8:05am. • Students will enter through their designated grade-level entrance unless they are eating breakfast. • Students not eating breakfast will be on the playground until doors open at 8:05. • Students walking, biking, or being dropped off will be recommended to do so as close to 8:15am as possible. <p>Recess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade Levels will be out on the playground together. <p>Lunchroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch will be served by Grade level. Additional seating will be added to space students further apart. <p>After School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered release times for students riding the school bus. • Students getting picked up, walking, or biking will exit through their designated doors.



BUILDING SPECIFICS

MIDDLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doors will open at 7:50am.• Students will report to the commons area, may go to lockers.• Lunch schedule will be extended to 44 minutes.• Students will be assessed in the first weeks of school to determine education baseline.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should plan to arrive between 7:45 and 8:15 am.• Classes start daily at 8:30am.• Students may choose to have breakfast in the cafeteria prior to 1st Period.• Students may seek academic help from instructors prior to 1st period M-W-F. Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:00 is Academic Assistance time for more lengthy contact time with teachers.




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.
- 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.

TRADITIONAL IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN	REMOTE LEARNING PLAN
<p>A threshold of 1.5% of building population will be followed to determine if a building must enter a two-week mask required time frame. This two-week timeframe is rolling and allows a building to roll off the mandate when/ if their positive COVID cases fall below 1.5%. If the building remains at 1.5% or higher, the two-week mask mandate starts over.</p> <p>Students will be instructed in the traditional manner with students and teachers present in the same classroom. 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. Students will continue to have access to a highly nutritious food program that meets all national school lunch program guidelines.</p> <p><u>ACTIVITIES</u> SDHSAA may promote a back to school activities plan which the VSD will follow. At this time, determination of schedules, games, spectator participation are back to normal. Fine arts, club activities, and concerts are expected to be normal to pre-covid practices.</p> <p><u>BUSING</u> Transportation will be offered as normal. The bus will receive extra cleaning protocols. Assigned seats may be implemented to ensure contact tracing can be established. If a school masks due to warranted infections, the buses will become mask mandated as well.</p>	<p>https://www.bholc.org/</p> <p>The school district will provide a remote learning option through Black Hills Online Community. The costs will be covered by the school district and the commitment to enroll will be for full semester increments.</p>



VERMILLION SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

<p>Academic Supports</p> 	<p>Staff/Students/Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •New staff hired to reduce some class sizes and provide additional mental health support. 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 and its variants. •All JK-12 students will be assigned a district device. •Students will have access to library books. •Dates for RTSP Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ August 2021 ○ December 2021 ○ June 2022 ○ December 2022 ○ June 2023 •Vermillion School Board will have COVID updates at their monthly school board meetings. <p>Social and Emotional Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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. •Extra staff have been hired to address concerns in this area. Contact building principal for details. •Students experiencing learning loss will have access to other opportunities including, alternative instruction, counseling services and summer extended school programs. <p>Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class schedule will follow the school calendar. Schedule modifications (ex. Lunch/recess) as necessary – start/end of day bell times remain unchanged. • Physical education will use outdoor spaces when possible, consider CDC guideline for safety. <p>Dressing for Physical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary PE classes do not dress for PE. • MS/HS PE classes will return to normal PE dress protocol.
<p>Operations</p>	<p>Pick-Up/Drop-Off of Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School buildings will open at 7:45 am each morning.



- Parents who can do so can assist the school by delaying student arrival until around 8:15 am.
- Parents stay in their vehicle during pick-up and drop-off when possible.
- Building principals will report specific protocols for AM recess' or other drop off or pick up protocols.

Entering/Exiting Buildings

- Social Distancing practices will be encouraged for entering/exiting school buildings. Classed maybe modified as necessary.
- Students enter and exit through assigned doors.

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.




- Executive Order 2021-08 states that: "No local government or subdivision of local government should require an individual to present a COVID -19 vaccine passport as described above, or any similar proof- of- COVID 19 Vaccination, in order to enter government premises, receive a local government benefit, license, or do business with that government.

Masks

- Masks will be voluntary for all students, staff and visitors. A threshold of 1.5% of the building population will be upheld when masks may be required. Proper mask wearing will be taught.
- If they choose to do so, parents will need to provide masks for their child to wear.
- Accommodations: In classrooms with a student having a documented hearing impairment, and a staff member chooses to wear a mask, masks or shields that allow the speakers lips to be seen will be worn.

Building Adjustments

- Removal of excess furniture, reconfiguring small group workspaces.
- Plexiglas barriers are available to staff who request them.
- Safety Signage.
- Education on hand hygiene and reducing the spread.

<p>Operations</p> 	<p>Food Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will return to normal lunch room protocols and serving practices. • Cafeteria supervisors will be promoting social distancing. Classrooms may be used as needed. • Lengthening of lunch periods to promote distancing will be explored. <p>Transportation Safety/Sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses will be sanitized and kept clean. Masks may be worn on bus. • Families are encouraged and welcome to provide their own transportation to minimize their child's potential risk of exposure. <p>Visitors to School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The school offices will be open to parents but may be limited in number. Clerical and administrators will direct visitors as to building requirements. • 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. <p>Facility Usage by Outside Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside groups, when permitted, and BSA will follow SD DOH Guidelines. Outside groups may be limited.
<p>Activities</p> 	<p>Extracurricular Activities –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, SD DOE, and SD DOH will be followed for all extracurricular activities. • Decisions on seasons, events, games, practices will be determined based on available data at the time. Currently a normal sports and fine arts schedule is expected.
<p>Health/Safety/Facilities</p> 	<p>Pre-Screening for Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should 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. • Call a medical professional if symptomatic. • Students do not report to school if symptomatic. • DOH is providing schools with two COVID-19 Testing programs in SY 2021-22: a screening testing option for any individual (students and staff) in the school setting and a rapid testing option for symptomatic individuals (students and

staff). Both programs are voluntary for schools and individuals. The first program provides resources and implementation support to measure the prevalence of the virus in schools on a weekly basis, in order to monitor spread. The second program provides testing resources to quickly determine if an individual with symptoms is COVID-19 positive, and if so, mitigate the transmission risk.

- Contact tracing for COVID-19 positive cases will be managed by DOH as it was in SY 2020-21. Schools should cooperate with DOH as they would with any other communicable disease. DOH's recommendations for quarantine for close contact will consider vaccination status.
- DOH will provide regular update of COVID Cases in K-12 schools, as it did last year.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

- Teach and reinforce proper hand hygiene and COVID mitigation.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Bathroom breaks will be scheduled in such a way as to encourage social distancing and promote frequent handwashing.

Touch Surface Cleaning

- Vermillion School District will use specific cleaning solutions documented to protect against viruses.
- The installation of hand sanitizing stations throughout school buildings.
- Increasing outside air intake to increase more fresh air into the buildings.
- Respiratory etiquette will be promoted.

Water Fountains

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

Positive Cases and Response

- 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 work through school work expectations with teachers.
- Communications to families as recommended by the SD DOH.
- If a staff member or student exposed as a close contact was previously vaccinated or wearing a mask at the time of exposure, they can still quarantine for 10 days or return to school masked for 10 days as long as they remain asymptomatic.

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.
- COVID testing will be available thru the school with parental consent.
- Classroom will be thoroughly cleaned.

- | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Contract tracing and quarantine procedures will be done in partnership with the SD DOH. |
|--|--|

ONLINE RESOURCES

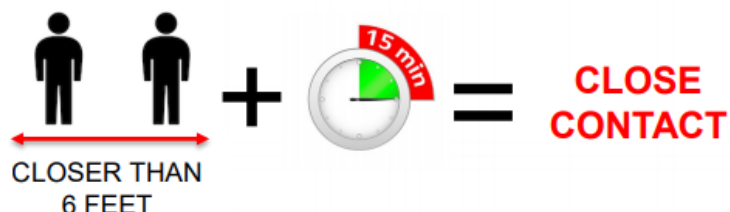


- State of SD (Return to Normal) https://covid.sd.gov/docs/COVID_SDPlan_BackToNormal.pdf
- Reopening Schools Checklist https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Schools_ReopeningChecklist.pdf
- SDDOE (Start Well Plan) <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>
- SDDOH <https://doh.sd.gov/>
- CDC 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



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.

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

- Home visits may be reduced without notice.
- Zoom, phone calls or other means may be used to meet with families.
- Remote learners may have access to counselors and school social worker.
- Regular attendance and policies apply to students learning remote.
- Group and individual counseling sessions will be held, while promoting social distancing.

Austin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance lessons may be provided in classrooms.
Jolley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance lessons may be provided in classrooms. • When conducting groups, social distancing will be promoted.
Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey students for concerns of anxiety or depression. Formulate group times based on results, while promoting social distancing.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will meet with students one on one for schedule changes. • Only 3 individuals allowed in the 'lobby' area. Social distancing promoted.

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 high 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

- 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.
- 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

- ☐ COVID Testing
- ☐ Clearance from a medical provider.
 - Provide documentation
- ☐ Stay Home for 10 days



RETURN TO ACTIVITY HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

A. Screen for signs of COVID-19:

- All rostered individuals may 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 10-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 to the extent possible.
- 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 may 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.
- 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 optional 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.

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.

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:

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 look similar to what the students saw two years ago. Our options will be choices the students love, ensuring a high level of satisfaction.
 - a. If students visit the cafeteria and come through the line, every entrée will be served directly to students, and the self-serve fruit and vegetable bar will be in use.
 - i. A sanitizer station with signage in each serving line to encourage washing and sanitizing hands before use of the food bar.
 - ii. Staff will wipe down tray slides, condiment bottles and other high touch surfaces between each group with clothes stored in quat sanitizer.
 - iii. Staff will replace all spoodles and tongs between each group.
2. **Supply shortages:** Food and supply shortages are very fluid, and we ask for your patience without 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. 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



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 reached at (800) 997-2880 or visit <https://covid.sd.gov/>.

Sincerely,


Responsible Party

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 	✓	✓	✓		

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 2nd 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.



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

QUARANTINE GUIDELINES*

COMPARING THE NEW 7 & 10 DAY QUARANTINE GUIDELINES



**QUARANTINE
THROUGH DAY 7**
since date of last exposure

Negative test result
(specimen collected on
Day 5 or later)
and then release from
quarantine after Day 7

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



**QUARANTINE
THROUGH DAY 10**
since date of last exposure

**NO TEST
NEEDED**

Person must remain
asymptomatic prior to release
and continue to monitor
through Day 14

**Those in long-term care facilities
are encouraged to adhere to a
14-day quarantine period.*

FULLY VACCINATED? Find Public Health Recommendations [here!](#)



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

covid.sd.gov

05/2021

COVID-19 MITIGATION IN SCHOOLS



No Cases in Building

Use preparedness measures.

Ask staff and families to self-screen at home.

If sick, require staff/students to stay home.

Teach, practice, and reinforce healthy hygiene practices.

Make common sense adjustments to current practices, social distance when possible, maintain cohorts.

Isolated Cases in Building

All of **GREEN** plus;

Reassess processes looking for gaps in prevention strategies.

Deep clean and disinfect affected areas. CDC recommends waiting for 24 hours, if possible before cleaning. Once an area is appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.

Allow for contact tracing. Ensure individual(s) does not return until self-isolation is complete.

Communicate general message to families while maintaining privacy. DOH contact tracing will communicate and provide education to close contacts and to positive patient's family.

Substantial Cases in Building

All of **GREEN, YELLOW** plus;

Understand the level of virus spread within your school building.

Assess relevant facts to determine appropriate steps:

- Degree of potential exposure within building
- Number of cases in surrounding community
- Grade levels impacted
- Ability to staff building

Consider options such as staggered schedules, blended learning, etc.

Engage state's School Response Team.

Vermillion School District Return to School Plan

AMENDMENTS To Return To School Plan

RTSP Discussion

Aug 30, 2021

School Board: Here is the language clarification Amy and I are seeking. This is copied from her email to you guys last week.

"If a staff member or student exposed as a close contact was previously vaccinated or wearing a mask at the time of exposure, they will be notified and given the option to quarantine for 10 days or return to school masked for 10 days as long as they remain asymptomatic. If they test negative for COVID-19 after day 5, 6, or 7, they may return to non-quarantine status on day 8."

It is my understanding, that in the event of a positive case at school, we will contact trace and notify the parents of all close contacts (unmasked, masked, vaccinated, or unvaccinated) and give them the appropriate quarantine recommendations.

- Any individual that is unmasked and unvaccinated will be asked to quarantine at home for 10 days and will be given the option to return on day 8 with a negative test result on day 5, 6, or 7. We will offer testing through the school.
- Any individual that is vaccinated will be asked to wear a mask for 10 days while at school and watch for signs and symptoms. They will be given the option to remove masks on day 8 with a negative test result on day 5, 6, or 7. We will offer testing through the school.
- Any individual that is masked during an exposure will be asked to continue to wear a mask for 10 days while at school and watch for signs and symptoms. They will be given the option to remove masks on day 8 with a negative test result on day 5, 6, or 7. We will offer testing through the school.
- *Under the previous assumptions masked, unmasked, or vaccinated kids quarantine for 10 days but may test out and return after day 7.

Points of clarification:

1. All staff are essential workers and therefore may return to work after a close contact exposure and should remain asymptomatic.
2. Staff will not be enforcing masks requirements from home, that is the responsibility of the family to establish that requirement. Teachers will recollect to their best ability if a student was or was not wearing a mask when determining close contacts.
3. If a masked or vaccinated close contact returns to school wearing a mask, that is the recommended protocols, but staff will not be available to validate or enforce mask requirements.
4. Staff will not perform daily health screens of students who are close contacts. That is recommended to be done at home daily.
5. Close contacts in sports/activities same as in school and wear a mask while on the bench and not in competition.

We have 1 new case today. One from last week.

RTSP Discussion

Sept 7th, 2021

As we prepared for in our return to school plan, once a school reached a 1.5% threshold of positive covid cases that building would go to a two week mask requirement.

Austin Elementary has reached their threshold today with 5 new cases. None of these contacts were in school therefore there is are no close contacts to report.

As per our return to school plan once a school building reaches their threshold all district bus students will be required to wear masks on the bus since we have students crossing over from building to building.

Once again, Austin Elementary and all bus riders are in a two week mask mandate until September 21 at which time we will re-evaluate the covid cases to determine our next action. If we are below the threshold the mask requirement will elapse, if we are above the

Vermillion School District Return to School Plan

threshold the mask requirement will continue for another two weeks. Please have a mask available for your child at each building in the event it is needed.

Thank you, please contact your child's school if you have questions.

RTSP Discussion 9/22/2021 Special Board Meeting

Vermillion School District

COVID-19 Testing Options

The South Dakota Department of Health has provided the Vermillion School District with two different types of free testing materials that may be used for students exhibiting symptoms as well as asymptomatic students.

1. BINAX Now Antigen tests will be utilized for diagnostic testing. BINAX Now tests may be administered for:
 - a. symptomatic students at school with verbal parental consent.
 - b. symptomatic students that stay home sick.
 - i. Testing will be available at the Middle School daily from 9:00am – 11:00am. Parents are asked to call in advance to schedule a time (605)677-8699. Testing entrance is located on the east side of the Middle School, white double doors just south of the main entrance.
 - c. asymptomatic individuals that are on quarantine to return to school early. Test may be administered on days 5, 6, or 7 to return on day 8. Call to schedule a testing time.
2. Quidel QuickVue test kits will be utilized for surveillance testing at home for asymptomatic students.
 - a. Participation is voluntary.
 - b. Results are to be reported to medical provider.
 - c. Parents may request at-home test kits by completing a registration form to opt-in for weekly testing kits for for a one-time testing kit.
 - d. Parents will be expected to pick up test kits at the schools every week or as needed. Quidel test kits will not be sent home with students.

RTSP DISCUSSION

1/6/2022 Board Amended Action

RTSP Change: Update plan to similar CDC guidelines.

Positive Covid Case

1. Any staff or student who is positive for Covid will be excluded from school for a 5-day isolation period.
2. If symptom free or symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school on days 6-10 with a mask.

RTSP Discussion

1/10/2022 Board Amended Action

RTSP Change:

Any individual identified as a close contact, regardless of vaccination status, may return to school, and will be required to wear a mask for 10 days.

- o In school testing will be recommended and available for all close contacts on or after Day 5.
- o If an individual identified as a close contact chooses to stay home, they can still quarantine for 5 days and return to school masked for the remaining 5 days as long as they remain asymptomatic.

