

# NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF RESOURCE CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING



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## HEALTH & SAFETY SMART RESTART PLAN

APPROVED BY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: OCTOBER 13, 2020

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### INTRODUCTION

#### Opening Letter from Superintendent Connie Hovendick

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August 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Families, Staff, and Community Members,

After an unprecedented end to the 2019-2020 school year, I write to you with excitement and optimism for the successful reopening of our schools this fall at North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center. It has been a challenge for our entire state since March, but I hope you have found ways to cope and embrace this new normal. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and community members who have helped NDSD/Resource Center succeed in these difficult times.

Updated: October 28, 2020

The challenge is now planning for what school will look like during the 2020-2021 school year. This is a difficult task as I recognize the impact and response to COVID-19 have changed rapidly over the past five months. To provide additional time for professional development, building set up, staff preparations, and communication and planning with families, the beginning of school, has been changed to Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, Governor Burgum and Superintendent Baesler released the K-12 Smart Restart Fall 2020 School Reopening Guidance for North Dakota Schools. We have aligned this health and safety reopening plan with this new guidance. The overall goal of this plan is to provide a safe and thorough reintegration plan for our students and staff. Given the dynamic nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be an ongoing and fluid process. We are prepared to change course at any moment should it may be necessary.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we strive to return to an in-person model of instruction. Yet, cannot ignore the health and safety concerns associated with the virus that remain. I realize that reviewing this plan may not address every question you may have. I recognize that some concepts and actions may be polarizing, and there are strong opinions about what the school should or should not do. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options to keep our schools from contributing to virus spread in our community, while also doing what is right for the health and safety of our students and staff moving forward.

I thank you for your time reviewing this plan, for your flexibility and understanding and I really look forward to returning to a new normal with our students and staff. I understand during this time of uncertainty and change there will be questions. I encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward by contacting the main office with any questions or concerns you may have. We want to support you, together NDSB/Resource Center will win at providing quality education in a safe and healthy manner.

Respectfully,

Dr. Connie Hovendick  
Superintendent

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## NDSB SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL GOALS

- I. All students will meet their individual academic, behavioral, and social skills goals (IEP's).
- II. All students and staff will be provided safe, supportive, and collaborative learning environments.
- III. All parents will be actively involved in the education process.

## RESTART PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Ensure the safety & well-being of all students and staff.
- Promote equity and accessibility to learning for all students.
- Provide access to language in all forms as needed by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing,
- Provide instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of all students.
- Foster positive relationships and interactions.

## DISTRICT COVID-19 TEAMS

- I. Health & Safety Smart Restart Development Team (42 Members). NDS is following DLPS plans with some adjustments for unique needs of NDS. We acknowledge the DLPS team for their guidance.

### District Representatives

Matt Bakke – Superintendent	Kristi Huston – Sweetwater Administrative Assistant
Lee Ann Johnston – School Board President	Todd Lagasse – Middle School Custodian
Christy Cichos – School Board Member	Vickie Borho – High School Cook
Ryan Hanson – High School Principal	Nikki Paulson – Sweetwater Paraprofessional
Jake Wateland – Middle School Assistant Principal	Brad Larson – Transportation/Maintenance Supervisor
Kim Krogfoss – Minnie H Kindergarten Center Principal	Melissa Haahr – Business Manager
Amy Kurtz – DLEA President	Kristel Peterson – Administrative Assistant
Diane Mertens – Past DLEA President	Leslie Elfman – Transportation/Purchasing Clerk
Jerad Lehmann – High School Teacher	Nick Kavli – District Technology Director
Kristi Ziegler – Minnie H Teacher	Rhandi Knutson – Lake Region Special Education Director
Teri Shomento – Sweetwater Teacher	Christon Dallas – School Resource Officer
Alexis Fee – Middle School Teacher	Tammy Meyer – High School Instructional Coach
Jacky Boyeff – Prairie View Counselor	Jacob Vaagen – Student
Erin Clementich – Student	Emma Hoover – Student

### Non-District Representatives

Annette Groves – Ramsey County Health	Erin Bommersbach – Parent
Stephanie Foughty – Altru Health System	Angie Wakefield – Parent
Breanne Hinojos – Parent/NAEAC Committee Member	Dan Driessen – Parent
Erin Wood – Director of College Relations Lake Region State College	Mike Grafsgaard – Public Works Director DL City
Karen Clementich – Director of Nursing Lake Region State College	Terry Wallace – Devils Lake Park District Supt.
Erin Lacina – NESD Director of Professional Learning & Operations	Brandon Exner – Devils Lake Fire Department
Julie Schuler – 21st Century Community Learning Center Coordinator	
Connie Hovendick – Superintendent ND School for the Deaf	

## II. NDS Health and Safety Restart Development/Assessment Team

Connie Hovendick – Superintendent  
Tracy Vilandre – Director of Health Services  
Wendy Palmer – Lead Instructor  
Chris Eckes – Director of Plants and Food Service  
Sabrina Schmitz – Director of Student Life

## III. Building Level COVID-19 Coordinator

A COVID-19 Building Level Coordinator who will be responsible for the health and safety preparedness and response planning. The coordinator will make themselves available to the North Dakota Department of Health 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to respond to phone calls from public health. This position will assist public health in identifying and notifying close contacts in the school setting. The coordinator will report cases of COVID-19, found in the school setting, to health officials, the Superintendent of NDS, and the State Superintendent's office. The Director of Health Services will serve as the Building Level Coordinator. If the coordinator is unable to be reached the secondary contact will be either the Lead Instructor or Superintendent.

### COVID-19 Coordinator

Tracy Vilandre – Director of Health Services

### Secondary Contacts

Wendy Palmer – Lead Instructor  
Connie Hovendick – Superintendent

## HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDANCE

### Resources

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- CDC Guidance on Opening Schools – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- ND Smart Restart – <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Covid-19/NDK12restartguide.pdf>
- Department of Public Instruction – <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/nddpi-updates-and-guidance-covid-19>
- ND Department of Health – <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>
- Ramsey County Health & Local Health Agencies – <https://www.co.ramsey.nd.us/160/Public-Health>

### Protect Yourself & Others

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#### WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN

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- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students and Staff are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

#### AVOID CLOSE CONTACT

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- Keep social distance from others is especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting sick.
- A minimum of 6 feet is recommended when individuals are together.

#### COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

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- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

#### CLEAN AND DISINFECT

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- School staff should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Shared materials (not recommended) should be cleaned.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.

#### FACE COVERINGS

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- The wearing of masks will be applied in phases based on the phases within the ND Smart Restart Guidance.
- Educators need to teach students how to properly wear a face covering so they are prepared to use them on school vehicle or other situations in close proximity with others.
  - Resources from NDDPI and NDS/ will be provided to teachers.

#### MONITOR YOUR HEALTH DAILY

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- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
- Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.
  - Symptomatic students will be isolated, and their guardians contacted.

## COVID-19 Symptoms

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- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

## Best Intentions

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Despite taking every reasonable precaution, there is no guarantee that our school will be without risk as it relates to COVID-19. The virus will be present on our transportation vehicles, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, social distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus.

## North Dakota Smart Restart

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NDSB will use the ND Smart Restart Odometer in consultation with state and local officials.



## HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center will take the following measures to ensure all students and staff are healthy while they are at school.

### Identifying Students & Staff at Higher Risk

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- Back to School and enrollment processes will include questions asking families to identify if their child is at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. This information will be provided to the nurse (COVID-19 Coordinator) who will contact the family and discuss instructional model options.
- Health Services will inquire with all employees if they are at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. The main office will work in partnership with the superintendent and the employee to coordinate adjustments to the work schedule or workplace.
- When the NDDoH or County Health inform the school of a student or staff member that is COVID-19 positive that information will be passed on to the Main Office and the building principal / director as allowable within school policy and law.

## Isolation & Quarantine

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- Definitions (see appendix for more information).
  - Isolation – For people who are already sick from the virus. A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with the virus from healthy people.
  - Quarantine – For people who are not sick but have been exposed to the virus. A prevention strategy used to monitor people who were exposed for a period of time.
- NDS will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by NDDoH and Ramsey County Health, or local health agencies.

## If a student or staff members becomes sick at school (or school event)

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- **Student**
  - Direct / escort the child to the Health Service office.
  - The child shall be provided a facial covering and Health Services staff will further evaluate.
  - Parent / guardian will be contacted immediately to pick up their child.
  - The building will continue to receive routine cleaning procedures.
- **Staff**
  - Inform your supervisor immediately and wear a face mask / shield until they can be replaced if supervising students at that time.
  - Leave the school building / grounds and consult with a health care professional.
  - The building will continue to receive routine cleaning procedures.
  - Coworkers are expected to continue to report to work as usual if asymptomatic.
  - The employee may be eligible for Emergency Paid Sick Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Contact the Main Office for more information.

## Return to School

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- When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined they may return after they have completed the recommended isolation or quarantine time, and symptoms have improved.

## Other Situations

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- **Staff member or Student is healthy but has a household member undergoing testing for COVID-19**
  - Staff member **must** notify their direct supervisor. Student must notify school.
  - Staff member can continue to report to work (wearing a mask and social distancing as able).
  - Student can continue to go to school (wearing a mask and social distancing as able).
  - The building will continue to receive routine cleaning procedures.
  - Coworkers/Classmates are expected to continue to report to work/school as usual if asymptomatic.
  - The employee may be eligible for Emergency Paid Sick Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Contact the Main Office for more information.
- **Staff member or student is healthy but has a household member WITH COVID-19**
  - Staff member **must** notify their direct supervisor. Student must notify school.
  - Self-quarantine at home following guidance provided by NDDoH, avoid congregate settings, public activities.
  - The building will continue to receive routine cleaning procedures.
  - Coworkers/Classmates are expected to continue to report to work/school as usual if asymptomatic.
  - The employee may be eligible for Emergency Paid Sick Leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Contact the Main Office for more information.

- **Staff member or Student is confirmed to have COVID-19**
  - Staff member immediately informs their direct supervisor. Student must notify School immediately.
  - Follow link for further instructions <https://www.health.nd.gov/what-do-if-you-tested-positive-covid-19>
  - Self-isolate in their place of residence until the following three are met:
    - The employee has not had a fever (temperature greater than 100.4 degrees) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
    - Employee's symptoms have improved (for example, employee's cough and shortness of breath).
    - At least 10 days have passed since the employee's first symptoms appeared.
    - The employee should wear a mask if some symptoms still exist for extra protection.
  - The employee may be eligible for Emergency Sick Leave under the FFCRA or traditional Family Medical Leave (FMLA). Contact the Main Office for more information.
  - The employee's workspace/classroom cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible.
  - The building's common areas (bathrooms, breakroom, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected.
  - The employee's coworkers/School classmates identified as close contacts will be contacted by School Point of Contact. If the employee's coworker or students classmates are not contacted they are not considered to be a close contact.
    - Close contact is defined by the NDDoH as "being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (15 minutes or more). Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case, or having direct contact with the infectious secretion of a COVID-19 case (being coughed on)."
    - New guidance issued September 30, 2020 – "This guidance allows for the consideration of face mask use to determine if a person exposed to someone with COVID-19 will need to quarantine."
    - For non-health care, non-essential settings, quarantine is no longer necessary if a potential exposure occurs while both the infectious individual AND the close contacts are wearing face coverings consistently and correctly. These guidelines do NOT apply to household contacts; all household contacts need to quarantine.
  - The coworkers/classmates will self-monitor for symptoms and continue to work/ attend school.
- **Staff member or Student has been identified as a close contact to COVID-19**
  - Staff member immediately informs their direct supervisor. Student notify school immediately.
  - Follow link for further instructions <https://www.health.nd.gov/what-do-if-you-are-close-contact>
  - Self-quarantine in their place of residence until the following three are met:
    - The employee has not had a fever (temperature greater than 100.4 degrees) for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
    - Employee's symptoms have improved for example employee's cough and shortness of breath).
    - At least 14 days have passed since the employee's last contact with positive case.
    - The employee should wear a mask if some symptoms still exist for extra protection.
- **Staff member or Student has a fever and/or respiratory symptoms but was not tested**
  - Self-isolate in their place of residence until the following are met
    - The employee has not had a fever (temperature greater than 100.4 degrees) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
    - Employee's symptoms have improved.
    - The employee should wear a mask if some symptoms still exist for extra protection.
- **Secondary contacts are contacts of someone who has been identified as a close contact.**
  - Employee will report to work as usual as long as the employee is not sick.
  - The student will report to school as usual as long as they are not sick.

In accordance with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), the procedures listed must be followed by all employees of ND School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Hard and Hearing in relation to COVID-19. Any employee member who does not comply with these procedures will be subject to disciplinary action to include termination.



Note: failure to adhere to quarantine is a Class B misdemeanor, which could result in 30 days imprisonment and/or up to a \$1,500 fine (NDCC 23-07.6-02(3)).

## TEACHING & LEARNING

### Instructional Models

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The instructional models used by the school will be guided, in part, by the risk level of COVID-19 in the community as defined within the phases below. This is a guide as instructional models could be altered based on other factors, such as occupancy levels, age of children, and abilities to move certain classes online.



#### Traditional Learning

All instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule. Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety.



#### Blended Learning

Students report to school on a modified schedule. Student schedules may be varied to meet the learning needs of each child. Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate. Instruction would be both in-person and online.



#### Distance Learning

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources or suited to the unique needs of the student.

### Equitable Services

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NDSB will work in conjunction with service providers to make educational decisions for students through the IEP process in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Office of Special Education. The learning environment, services, and accommodations for the students will be determined through the IEP team. Our goal is to develop plans that will ensure equitable and effective access to provide FAPE for students with special needs in ALL learning environments.

### Instructional Phases

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#### Plan #1 - In-Person Learning without Restrictions

Students would return to school and all restrictions lifted.

#### Plan #2 – In-Person Learning with Restrictions

Students return to school with new health & safety requirements. Examples: No large assemblies, reduce mixing of groups, and social distancing

#### Plan #3 – Distance Learning

Students learn using our school distance learning plan.

## Plan #1 - In-Person Learning without Restrictions

Students would return to school and all restrictions lifted.

The following health & safety procedures will be in place for this instructional phase.

### Health Screenings

- Do not come to school if exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any individual with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater should not be present in school.

### Hand Hygiene

- Handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizer will be **encouraged** at the following times:
  - Arrival to school
  - Before and after eating
  - After using the bathroom
  - Before and after handling facial coverings
  - After playing outdoors
  - Prior to switching rooms or locations
  - Before dismissal

### Protecting Vulnerable Populations of Students and Staff

- We will consider the special health and education needs of students that are considered high-risk due to pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to severe illness due to COVID-19. These processes will be followed:
  - Students with current plans (IEP, 504, Health Plan, etc.) will be reviewed and updated to decrease the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

### Face Coverings

- Will be recommended to students and staff in all situations where social distancing is not possible.
- Will be provided and washed by families.
- Will be worn by all visitors entering the building

### Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Staff will perform routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas throughout the day.
- Each building is equipped with disinfectant sprayers.
- In the event of a positive case of COVID-19 case in the school custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as feasible, prior to cleaning and disinfecting.

### Physical Distancing

- No physical distancing requirements will be in place. But social distancing where possible and reasonable will be encouraged.

### Transportation

- Distancing on a school vehicle will be unachievable, we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation for their children.
- Students and drivers are **required** to wear face coverings when in the vehicle.
- Students are **required** to use hand sanitizer when getting on and leaving the vehicle.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before getting in the vehicle. Staff are asked to screen themselves each day before getting in the vehicle.
- Vehicles will be cleaned each night including disinfecting handrails, seat tops and entrance doors.

### Buildings/Classrooms

- Common signage promoting daily protective measures (social distancing, hand washing, and staying home when sick) will be posted throughout each school building.
- Classroom teachers are provided with additional supplies to disinfect classrooms, gyms, cafeterias, and weight rooms.
- Access to school buildings may be limited, with new protocols.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the buildings.
- Playgrounds are not sanitized or disinfected.

### Activities/Athletics

- Guidance and directives from the NDHSA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.

## Plan #2 - In-Person Learning with Restrictions

Students return to school with new health & safety requirements.

The following health & safety procedures will be in place for this instructional phase.

### Health Screenings

- Do not come to school if exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any individual with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater should not be present in school.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Staff are asked to screen themselves each day before coming to school. Use the screening guidance provided (see appendix).
- We will **NOT** be providing temperature checks upon arrival.

### Hand Hygiene

- Handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizer will be used at the following times:
  - Arrival to school
  - Before and after eating
  - After using the bathroom
  - Before and after handling facial coverings
  - After playing outdoors
  - Prior to switching rooms or locations
  - Before dismissal

### Protecting Vulnerable Populations of Students and Staff

- We will consider the special health and education needs of students that are considered high-risk due to pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to severe illness due to COVID-19. These processes will be followed:
  - Students with current plans (IEP, 504, Health Plan, etc.) will be reviewed and updated to decrease the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
  - Empowering students/families and staff to self-identify high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 and consider requests for alternative learning plans.

### Face Coverings

- Will be required of students and staff in all situations where social distancing is not possible (transitioning between classes, using the bathroom, recess & attending classes outside of designated class/grouping).
- Will be provided and washed by families.
- Will be worn by all visitors entering the building

### Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Staff will perform routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas throughout the day.
- All buildings will have a rotation of enhanced cleaning.
- Each building is equipped with disinfectant sprayers.
- In the event of a positive case of COVID-19 case in the school custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as feasible, prior to cleaning and disinfecting.

### Physical Distancing

- A minimum of 6 feet will be required between students and staff when together for more than 15 minutes.
- Field trips, assemblies & large group gatherings may be cancelled.
- Lunch times and location may be altered to reduce the number of students in the commons at any one time. Students are seated at tables with social distancing.
- Encourage outdoor activities whenever feasible.

### Transportation

- Distancing in a vehicle will be unachievable, we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation for their children.
- Students and drivers are **required** to wear face coverings when in the vehicle.
- Students are **required** to use hand sanitizer when getting on and leaving the vehicle.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before getting in the vehicle. Staff are asked to screen themselves each day before getting in the vehicle.
- Vehicles will be cleaned each night including disinfecting handrails, seat tops and entrance doors.
- Students may be assigned seats.

**Buildings/Classrooms**

- Common signage promoting daily protective measures (social distancing, hand washing, and staying home when sick) will be posted throughout each school building.
- Classroom teachers are provided with additional supplies to disinfect classrooms, gyms, cafeterias, and weight rooms.
- Access to school buildings is limited, with visits by appointment only.
- All buildings will have sanitizer stations at main entries. Hand sanitizer will also be available throughout the buildings.
- Playgrounds are not sanitized or disinfected.
- All water fountains will be shut off and water bottle filling stations will be the only available option.
- Place students in similar groups whenever possible.
- Face desks in the same direction (rather than facing each other) or seat students on only one side of the table when possible.
- Remove non-essential classroom materials/items in order to help accommodate social distancing.
- Limit the sharing of materials and supplies.
- Protective measures will be implemented in office spaces when possible.
- Hold virtual meetings when possible and social distancing for all face to face meetings.

**Activities/Athletics**

- Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.

**Plan #3 – Distance Learning**

All students learn using the school distance learning plan.

School Buildings will be CLOSED, and only essential personnel will have access to the buildings.

**First Four Weeks Focus**

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction requires the following of districts as part of the ND K-12 SMART RESTART guidance:

- School is required to demonstrate ongoing understanding and growth toward academic proficiency in grade level or advanced grade level content.
- School will assess students within the first four weeks of the school year for all students, kindergarten through grade eight.

NDSB will focus on the following within the first four weeks of school being in sessions:

- Establishing strong, meaningful relationships as the foundation to effective teaching and learning
- Teaching students HOW to learn remotely (digital competency): modeling and practicing effective procedures and protocols; familiarizing students with technology-based platforms; learning problem-solving strategies and resources, etc.
- Assessing student knowledge and skill gaps and needs.

**Mental Health**

The NDSB is committed to ensuring that students continue receiving support for their mental health and well-being, their social and emotional learning, career, and academic planning for their future. The following supports will be offered to our learners and their families:

- Social-Emotional Lessons and resources will be provided through a variety of formats: Seesaw, Google Classroom, Zoom, or in person learning. These activities will be intentional to connect, support, empower, and value adults and students.
- Social-emotional teaching resources will be provided to support student learning.

- We will continue to work with our community partners to make appropriate referrals for students requiring more intensive support.
- Our team will consult with teachers in support of their work with students who may experience struggles while working remotely.
- Our team will work to help families remove barriers they may be experiencing while trying to help their students access the tools needed for their education.
- Our team will continue to be available for students who need additional social emotional support.
- Student screening after 6-weeks of school allows for ongoing support of strengths, needs and continuous improvement to SEL instruction.

## Professional Development

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The school has/will be taking the following steps to provide professional development for our staff:

- All school staff will be required to attend training on the implementation of our Health and Safety Plan. The training on this plan will be provided in partnership with our public health agencies during the back to school in-service days. To provide additional time for professional development, building setup, staff preparations and communication and planning with families, the beginning of school, has been changed to Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, one week later.
- Each teacher is equipped with a school-issued computer that allows video streaming, network access, access to various applications and resources, etc. Our technology department is available for any technology support that is needed.
- Our school professional development team will respond to the professional development needs of our staff for established online communication and educational platforms, and will provide webinars, tutorials, and other supports according to request and identified needs.
- NDSD will utilize Zoom, Google classroom, Microsoft Teams, and all affiliated applications which will allow for seamless information exchange.
- Resources are available to assist all employees with creating video conferences and meetings to allow virtual contact.
- School sites will establish meeting times during which employees will troubleshoot, share best practices, and learn new strategies around effective distance learning from instructional design coaches and other colleagues.

## COMMUNICATION & POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

NDSD believes communication between parents/families and the school will strengthen the educational opportunities, experiences, and outcome for our students in the district. Therefore, we will communicate important information in a clear, consistent, and timely manner to our students, parents/families, staff, and community members.

Our methods of communication will include:

- Communications Applications (Google Classroom – Grades K – 8)
- School Listservs
- School Website
- Social Media – Facebook

- Local Media – Radio, DL Journal
- Instant Alert Phone, Email, Text Notification System

### **Class/School Closure**

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If a class/school closure is necessary, that decision will be made in consultation with the North Dakota Department of Health, Ramsey County Health, or local health agencies. If this happens, the school will provide information to the parents/families of this closure using the instant alert system. Families should prepare in case their child’s class/school is temporarily closed.

### **Contact Information**

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North Dakota Department of Health – (701) 328-2372  
Ramsey County Health – (701) 662-7035  
Department of Public Instruction – (701) 328-2260  
NDSD Main Office – (701) 665-4400  
NDSD Nurse Office – (701) 665-4406  
Devils Lake Public School District Office – (701) 662-7640  
Minnie H Kindergarten Center – (701) 662-7670  
Prairie View Elementary School – (701) 662-7626  
Sweetwater Elementary School – (701) 662-7630  
Central Middle School – (701) 662-7664  
Lake Area Career & Tech Center – (701) 662-7650  
High School – (701) 662-1200

NDSD/RCDHH

# Before School

NDSD/RCDHH

Parents are asked to review this daily health checklist by answering these questions before sending their child to school.

(Parents do not need to send the questionnaire to school)

Has your child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a new or worsening shortness of breath?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have new or worsening cough?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have chills?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a sore throat?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_



If **YES** to any of the questions **STOP!**

Do not send your child to school. Contact your healthcare provider. Contact your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.



If you are able to answer **NO** to all questions, go to school.