

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



HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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.

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. **NDSB 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

II. **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 NDSB, 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

- 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

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN



- 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



- 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



- 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



- 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



- 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



- 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

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

Best Intentions

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.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Identifying Students & Staff at Higher Risk

- 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

- Definitions.
 - 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/RCDDH Covid-19 Infections and Exposure Plan

ND Department of Health and CDC guidelines will be reviewed with each school related covid-19 scenario. Alternate plans to continue school and work may be made for staff and students with administration and Covid-19 coordinator.

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

- **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, if they are displaying 2 or more symptoms
 - 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.

Return to School

- When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined they may return after they have completed the most current and up to date recommendations for isolation or quarantine time set by the CDC and ND Department of Health, and symptoms have improved. Alternate recommendations may be reviewed with administration and covid coordinator.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Equitable Services

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

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

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Staff will perform routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas throughout the day.
- 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 face coverings will be optional when in the vehicle.
- Students are encouraged 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.
- 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.
- Individual or small group outings may be approved if completed following written school guidelines.
- 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.
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Mental Health

The NDSD 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 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.

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

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

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

NDSB/RCDHH

Before School

NDSB/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.