



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

2023-24

Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan Based on the Requirements of the U.S. Department of Education

Scheduled Review

December 2021 (In conjunction with December Child Count)

August 2022 (In conjunction with Start of 2022-23 School Year)

December 2022 (In conjunction with December Child Count)

June 2023 (In conjunction with Year End Signoff)

Updated: July 22, 2021

Updated: February 10, 2022

Updated: September 12, 2022

Updated: June 12, 2023

**Changes to this plan may occur based on updated guidelines from national, state and local health officials.*

Direct questions to:

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BOARD APPROVAL: August 16, 2021

PLAN REVIEWED AS NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

Continuity of Services Plan

The Meade School District is committed to provide a quality education to all of the students in the district and to provide for a safe environment for the students and staff. Precautions are in place to ensure a safe return to school. This plan outlines procedures used by the staff and students throughout the school year. The plan can and probably will change throughout the year.

Accessibility: The Meade School District will post English and Spanish versions of this document online. Individuals with issues accessing information due to language or disability should contact Superintendent, Mr. Wormstadt via email at wayne.wormstadt@k12.sd.us phone (605) 347-2523 ext. 1.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The guidance and considerations outlined in this document are grounded in the following principles:

- Safeguarding the health & safety of students and staff.
- Preparing for students to return to traditional, in-person learning.
- Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students who are emerging from COVID-19 pandemic disruption.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

- The Meade School District is having traditional, in-person learning in our schools. The central belief is that our students are best served when connected in person with our school's academic programs, activities, and social-emotional supports led in person by our teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators, and mentors.
- Credit recovery; tutoring, both during and after school; summer school; and extended school year will be offered to assist students who may need additional support and help outside the normal classroom setting due to absences as a result of COVID-19.
- In the event of a school closure and the move to remote learning, instructional delivery and academic learning will be accomplished through the remote learning or blended learning.
 - o During a period of remote learning, school counselors will be available to address student social, emotional, and mental health needs.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

COVID-19 was declared a worldwide pandemic as identified by the World Health Organization (WHO). COVID-19 is extremely contagious and believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. Federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing. CDC on May 11, 2023 declared the Public Health Emergency over for COVID-19.

The Meade 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.

Masks are not required; however, they may be recommended based on school or community level of spread.

POSITIVE COVID-19 PROCEDURES FOR MEADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Staff and students that have been identified with a positive COVID-19 test can return to school and end isolation when the following criteria have been met:

- Will notify of recommended practices when CDC guidance is updated. TBD
- Students and staff members are recommended to wear a mask for five days when social distancing is not an option.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

- Daily health screenings will not be required
- Diagnostic COVID-19 testing as supported by resources from the SD DOH
- As always, please keep your child home if they are sick

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

- Teach and reinforce proper hygiene measures such as hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
- Staff and students will wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer regularly.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and throughout buildings.
- Inform/train staff on all safety protocols.
- Post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Create distance between students and staff when possible.
- Personal school supplies will not be shared.
- Encourage students and staff to use personal water bottles and water bottle filling stations vs hallway/classroom drinking fountains.

BUILDING VISITATION & FACILITY USE

- All visitors and volunteers should be in good health with no COVID-19 related symptoms
- All facilities will be available for outside organization use (subject to availability).

TRANSPORTATION & BUSING

- Normal bus routes.
- Masks are not required; however, they may be recommended based on school or community level of spread.
- Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

- Sanitation wipes and/or hand sanitizer provided on each bus.
- If possible, students should sit with cohort (same students sit together each day – preferably with a family member or classmate).
- Open windows and roof vents, when practical, to improve ventilation.

STUDENT MEALS

- Follow safe food handling procedures when handling, preparing, or serving food.
- Clean cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- Encourage social distance among students in serving and dining areas.
- When able, implement alternative seating arrangements and/or locations to decrease the number of students dining together during each serving session.
- Provide hand sanitizer station set up in service line for student to sanitize before and after meals.

STAYING HOME WHEN APPROPRIATE

- Employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID- 19 should stay home.
- Staff and students should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.
- In addition, students and staff should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and show symptom improvement before returning to school. This precautionary measure applies to any student or staff member with a fever regardless of whether or not they had a positive COVID-19 test result.
- Please use Appendix A for COVID-19 Screening Questions.

CLEANING/MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

- Adequate supplies provided to support healthy hygiene behavior.
- Normal daily cleaning and disinfecting.
- Normal maintenance operations.
- HVAC systems will utilize outside air whenever possible to achieve fresh air flushes.
- HVAC System filters will be upgraded in compatible systems.

ISOLATION GUIDELINES

The CDC/SD DOH recommends a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 isolate for at least 5 days, and that the student or staff member may leave isolation after 5 full days and return to school/work if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have significantly improved. The CDC/SD DOH also recommends that the individual wears a mask for 5 days upon return to school/work to minimize the risk of infecting others.

** Please note: A student or staff must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms must have significantly improved prior to the return to school/work.

CLOSE CONTACT GUIDELINES

As of February 28, 2022, the CDC no longer recommends universal case investigation and contact tracing for COVID-19. Individuals that are COVID positive will be asked to inform their own close contacts of possible exposure. As of August 11, 2022, the CDC recommends that if you were exposed to COVID-19, you wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.

STAYING HOME WHEN APPROPRIATE

- Employees and students that are experiencing symptoms of an infectious disease such as COVID-19, RSV, and/or GI infections should stay home and get tested for COVID-19.
- In addition, students and staff should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and show symptom improvement before returning to school. This precautionary measure applies to any student or staff member with a fever regardless of whether or not they had a positive COVID-19 test result.
- Please use Appendix A for COVID-19 Screening Questions and Appendix B for COVID-19 symptoms.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

COVID-19 vaccination information can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/>.

CONTINUANCE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- When a student is not able to attend school for the duration of time indicated above because they tested positive to COVID-19, displayed the symptoms, or have to quarantine due to contact tracing – school staff will work with the student to address any learning loss or missed assignments during absence. COVID-19 related absences will not be held against the student and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

REMOTE LEARNING

Remote Learning includes the closure of a school and the move to remote learning. The decision to move to remote learning will be based on the ability to maintain an effective in-person learning environment. Activities may be suspended during the period of remote learning based upon the circumstances at the time of the decision. Staff will be working with students to prepare them should we have to move to remote learning.

- Every teacher in grades kindergarten through 8th grade will have a Google Classroom set up for their classroom or course sections.
- Every teacher in grades 9 through 12 will have their course sections set up in Google Classroom.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Every child and adolescent with a disability is entitled to a free and appropriate education and is entitled to special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP). Students receiving special education services may be more negatively affected by distance-learning and may be disproportionately impacted by interruptions in regular education. It may not be feasible, depending on the needs of the individual child and adolescent, to adhere both to distancing guidelines and the criteria outlined in a specific IEP. Attempts to meet the needs of the individual child and may require creative solutions, often on a case-by-case basis. Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities in respect to THEIR health and safety. Please contact your child's case manager if you need assistance.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Students – each student will have access to a qualified school counselor in their respective grade level building. The school district will also utilize community mental health providers to address gaps in mental health services.

Virtual Learning

The Meade School District will allow students to access virtual learning opportunities when it is determined to be in the best educational interest of the student or is necessitated due to a medical condition. The district's preferred provider for virtual learning is Edgenuity and the Black Hills Online Learning Community. However, other approved virtual learning options may be available for remediation or credit recovery for students in grades 6-12.

Virtual learning is a unique opportunity that is not guaranteed for everyone. The criteria below outline the circumstances that a student may be considered for virtual learning. A team from each respective building will make a recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent will make the final decision.

To be eligible:

1. The student must be enrolled in the Meade School District. Students must meet and maintain all pertinent enrollment requirements of the district. Students will not be allowed to open enroll into the Meade School District to participate in virtual learning.
2. A student who has an immune compromised system or is living with a family member with an immune compromised system. A physician's recommendation that explicitly states the student should not attend school in-person must be provided; or it is determined that it is in the best educational interest of the student to participate in virtual learning.
3. Acceptance into virtual learning for students with an IEP or 504 will primarily be based upon the decision of the IEP/504 team as they determine the best educational placement for the individual student.

Considerations:

1. Student performance will be reviewed each trimester/semester. Learners not making adequate progress, not demonstrating proficiency, or are failing may be removed from the program at subsequent trimesters/semesters.
2. Students will be allowed to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities.
3. Students are required to take state assessments administered by the district regardless of whether the course for which the examination is required was taken virtually or in the traditional classroom. Failure to take the state assessments may result in denial to continue with virtual learning.

Students taking courses virtually are subject to district policies, procedures and rules applicable to students enrolled in traditional courses including, but not limited to, the district's discipline code and prohibitions on academic dishonesty, discrimination, harassment, bullying and cyberbullying.

Direct Inquiries To:

- Sturgis Elementary parents may contact Chantal Ligtenberg at Chantal.ligtenberg@k12.sd.us or 605-347-2386
- Sturgis Williams Middle School parents may contact Chad Hedderman at chad.hedderman@k12.sd.us or 605-347-5232
- Sturgis Brown High School parents may contact Pete Wilson at pete.wilson@k12.sd.us or 605-347-2686
- Piedmont Valley Elementary parents may contact Ethan Dschaak at ethan.dschaak@k12.sd.us or 605-787-5295
- Stagebarn Middle School parents may contact David Olson at David.olson@k12.sd.us or 605-787-4172
- Whitewood Elementary School parents may contact Brit Porterfield at Brittan.porterfield@k12.sd.us or 605-269-2264
- Rural School parents may contact Sarah Scherer at sarah.scherer@k12.sd.us or 605-985-5532

Appendix A

BEFORE SCHOOL!

Parents, please complete the following health screening before sending their child to school.

(Parent(s) do not need to send the questionnaire to school)

COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS

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

_____ Yes _____ No

Does your child have 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 diarrhea?

_____ Yes _____ No

Does your child have unexplained muscle pain?

_____ Yes _____ No

Does your child have a headache (unrelated to a known health condition (i.e. migraines)?

_____ 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 these questions, **STOP!**

Do not send your child to school.

Contact your healthcare provider. Contact your school to inform them of your child's symptoms. You may also contact the SD Department of Health with any COVID-19 questions 1-800-997-2880.

If you are able to answer NO to ALL questions, **GO** to school.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2–14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seek medical care immediately if someone has Emergency Warning Signs of COVID-19

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging and
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

CS-317142-A

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet
(about 2 arms' length)
from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a
tissue, then throw the tissue in the
trash and wash your hands.



When in public, wear a
cloth face covering over
your nose and mouth.



Do not touch your
eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect
frequently touched
objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick,
except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap
and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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How to Wear and Take Off Your Mask

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

How to Put On and Wear Your Mask Correctly

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask
- Put it over your face and mouth
- Be sure your mask fits snugly against the sides of your face and under your chin
- Make sure you can breathe easily



Wear a Mask to Protect Yourself and Others

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth to help prevent getting and spreading COVID-19
- Wear a mask in public settings, especially when you cannot stay six feet apart from people who don't live with you

How to Take Off Your Mask



Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops



Handle only by the ear loops or ties



Fold outside corners together



Wash hands immediately after removing

Other Ways to Protect Yourself

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds and places with poor ventilation
- Wash your hands often
- Get a vaccine when it is offered



CS 523487-A 04/01/2021

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Students: Let's work together to stop the spread of COVID-19

DID YOU WASH YOUR HANDS?

stop



think



wash hands



ASK YOURSELF:

Did I just go to the bathroom?

Am I about to eat?

Did I just eat?

Did I cough or sneeze?

*Did I touch supplies or objects
that other people have touched?*

Did I touch garbage?

Did I touch my cloth face cover?

*If you can't wash your hands,
ask your teacher or another
adult for hand sanitizer.*