



De Smet School District Back-to-School 2021-2022



Available for public comment & approved by the Board of Education on August 9, 2021.

Last updated and approved on March 14, 2022.

Plan can be found at <https://desmet.k12.sd.us/covid>

For more information about this plan, contact Superintendent Abi Van Regenmorter, 605-854-3963

*For a summary of this plan in other languages or formats for individuals with disabilities, please contact the office.

**Comuníquese con la oficina para obtener un resumen de este plan en español.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The De Smet School District has created this plan through our Back to School/COVID-19 Committee to create a safe and caring learning environment while reducing the impact of COVID-19 for students, staff, and community members. Individuals on the committee include parents, medical personnel, school teachers, kitchen staff, paraprofessionals, administrative assistants, administrators and school board members. The De Smet School District will make adjustments based on guidance from the SD Department of Health, SD Department of Education and CDC, virus spread in our community and surrounding areas, all in the best interest of our students and staff.

The education of our students, as well as their physical and emotional health, are our priorities. This reopening plan is the De Smet School District's approach to starting school on August 19, 2021. Simply stated, our approach is to resume school operations as close to normal as possible with implementation of significant health and safety precautions for students and staff. School staff and custodial staff will use Oxivir disinfectant spray to clean surfaces, door knobs, and

The SD Department of Health will alert a school of any student in the school who has tested positive. A general notification phone call will be sent to parents/guardians of students who are identified as close contacts.

The De Smet Board of Education recognizes that school staff members are critical infrastructure employees. The CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may continue working even if identified as a close contact to a positive COVID case, provided they remain asymptomatic and take necessary precautions. Staff members will be required to wear a mask for the 10-day period while at work and self-monitor for symptoms. If notified and showing symptoms, staff members will be required to quarantine at that time.

The superintendent will administer the Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen test to any staff member that is symptomatic and requests to be tested. Families may request the Quidel Over-the-Counter (OTC) test from the superintendent to be administered at home.

The school district will not require students to wear face coverings throughout the school day, unless the district later determines that the increased use of masking is required.

The school district will work with local healthcare providers to communicate the importance and availability of vaccines to parents and eligible members of the school community.

Students' social, emotional, and mental health needs will be assessed frequently by classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and administration. Any student showing signs of stress, mental health needs, and emotional difficulties will be referred to the school counselor.

Staff members will be given information about the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to utilize for their own well-being. Information is posted on the district's website about accessing EAP services.

Social Distancing

When possible/feasible, the school will:

- Minimize opportunities for sustained exposure by ensuring sufficient social distancing with at least 6 feet between people whenever possible (e.g., adequate space exists in hallways, classrooms are large enough or class sizes are small enough, students and staff are in large outdoor spaces)

- Provide frequent reminders for students and staff to stay at least 6 feet apart from one another when feasible
- Place physical barriers such as plexiglass for protection at reception desks and similar areas as determined by district administration and staff.

Respiratory Etiquette

The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.

Individuals should:

- cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
- perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

Handwashing/Hygiene

The De Smet School District will:

- provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and older children, paper towels, and tissues)
- teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children
- increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff
- supervise use of hand sanitizer by students
- ensure that children with skin reactions and contraindications to hand sanitizer use soap and water
- reinforce hand washing during key times such as:
 - before, during, and after preparing food;
 - before eating food
 - after using the toilet
 - after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - after touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other individuals
- provide hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, and in every classroom, for safe use by staff and older students

Isolation/Quarantine

- Require staff and students to stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet DOH criteria for return.

Isolation guidance (Approved 1/10/22)

- Positive for COVID-19 and **do not have symptoms**:
 - Isolate for 5 days and then recommend masking until day 10.
 - If they develop symptoms after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period would **start over**. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms.
- Positive for COVID-19 and **have or had symptoms**:

- Isolate for 5 days. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms (test date is no longer used).
 - Recommend wearing a mask until day 10.
 - If they continue to have fever or other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, they should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their other symptoms have improved.
- Encourage staff and students to follow DOH quarantine if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.
 - Fully vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine as a close contact but should monitor for symptoms.

Continuity of Services

In the event that the educational setting is changed from in-person to remote and/or hybrid, students will be supplied with Chromebooks to use at home. Teachers will use Google Classroom to instruct, assess, and provide feedback to students. Meals will be provided by the school nutrition program. The school counselor will be in communication with staff and families to provide support to any students struggling with mental health.

HOME HEALTH SCREENING

As the first line of defense, the district is requesting parents screen their child/children before sending them to school. As parents are frequently concerned about when students should stay home or attend school because of illness, parents should follow the guidelines below to determine when to keep sick students at home.

- Vomited or experienced diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- New, unexplained cough
- New, unexplained headache
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Had a fever over 100 degrees in the last 24 hours
- Signs of contagious disease such as pink eye or impetigo
- Strep throat – until all cultures are read and student is on medications for prescribed time before returning to school
- Lice – until treated and nit free
- Chicken pox – until all scabs are dry and crusted (7-10 days)
- Any rash that may be disease related or you do not know the cause – check with your family doctor before sending your child to school

STUDENTS WHO BECOME SICK AT SCHOOL

Send students home if they become sick at school following the ICE principle:

- Isolate student away from other students

- Contact parents
- Exit building as soon as parent is available to do so

STUDENTS ON AN IEP

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety needs will be met through the IEP process. Addendums to individual plans will be made following SPED procedures.

The school district will ensure the continuity of services for students needing to be home as a close contact or being diagnosed as COVID positive. Students who are required to be home during quarantine or isolation will be able to remote learn. Their assignments will be available on Google Classroom or communicated through the teacher.

TRANSPORTATION

Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus

Students will social distance as much as possible

BUILDINGS/CLASSROOMS/CAFETERIA

Staff will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

Signs will be posted with preventative strategies

Sanitizer will be placed at the entrance and other high traffic areas

Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces with EPA-registered disinfectants

Ensure all water systems are safe for use by providing water bottle filling station

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all students at no charge

Air purification systems have been installed in shared common spaces through the air exchange system

Parents and visitors without COVID symptoms or exposure will be allowed to eat lunch with students

No trading or sharing food at breakfast or lunch

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Follow guidelines set forth by SDHSAA (see protocol on page 7)

The De Smet 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.

PLAN UPDATES

Districts must seek public input on whether to revise Safe Return plans a minimum of every six months. If, after public comment, the district determines no revision is necessary, including in response to revised CDC guidance and/or local conditions, the district must note the date of review separate from the date of school board plan approval. Safe Return plans must be posted no later than Aug. 20, 2021, and reviewed no less frequently than the schedule below.

District Assurance of Regular Review: The South Dakota Department of Education will collect assurances from superintendents that Safe Return plans have been reviewed at these points during the school year:

- December 2021 (in conjunction with December Child Count)
- June 2022 (in conjunction with Year-End Sign-off)
- December 2022 (in conjunction with December Child Count)
- June 2023 (in conjunction with Year-End Sign-off)

To facilitate transparency, the SD Department of Education will post the link to each school district's plan on its website. It will be the responsibility of the district to ensure its link remains valid.

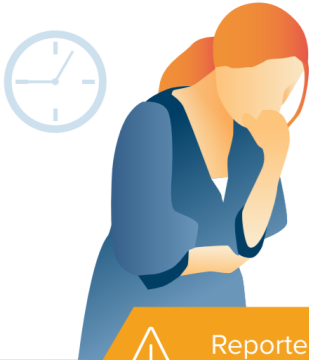
**Accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety procedures should be requested through the building principal.



SYMPTOMS AND POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

? What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure and can include:



- ✓ Fever or chills
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Muscle/body aches
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Congestion or runny nose
- ✓ Nausea or vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea



Reported COVID-19 cases have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Some infected individuals experience no symptoms at all.

Wearing a face mask **CORRECTLY** can help prevent the spread of #COVID19 to others

Take action to slow the spread of #COVID19 by wearing a face mask in public, **CORRECTLY**.



DO make sure the mask covers your nose and mouth completely



DO NOT wear the face mask on your neck.

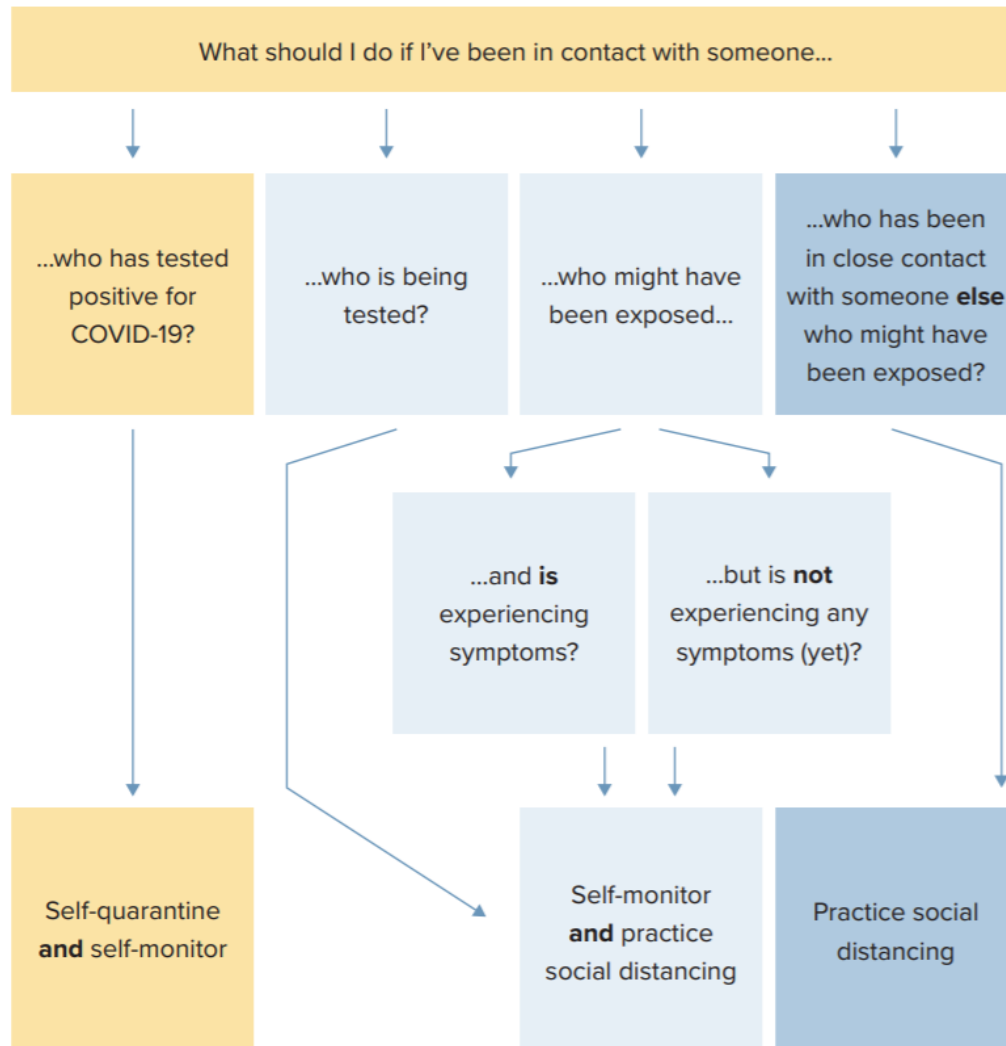


DO NOT wear the face mask under your nose.



DO NOT let children under 2 years old wear face masks.

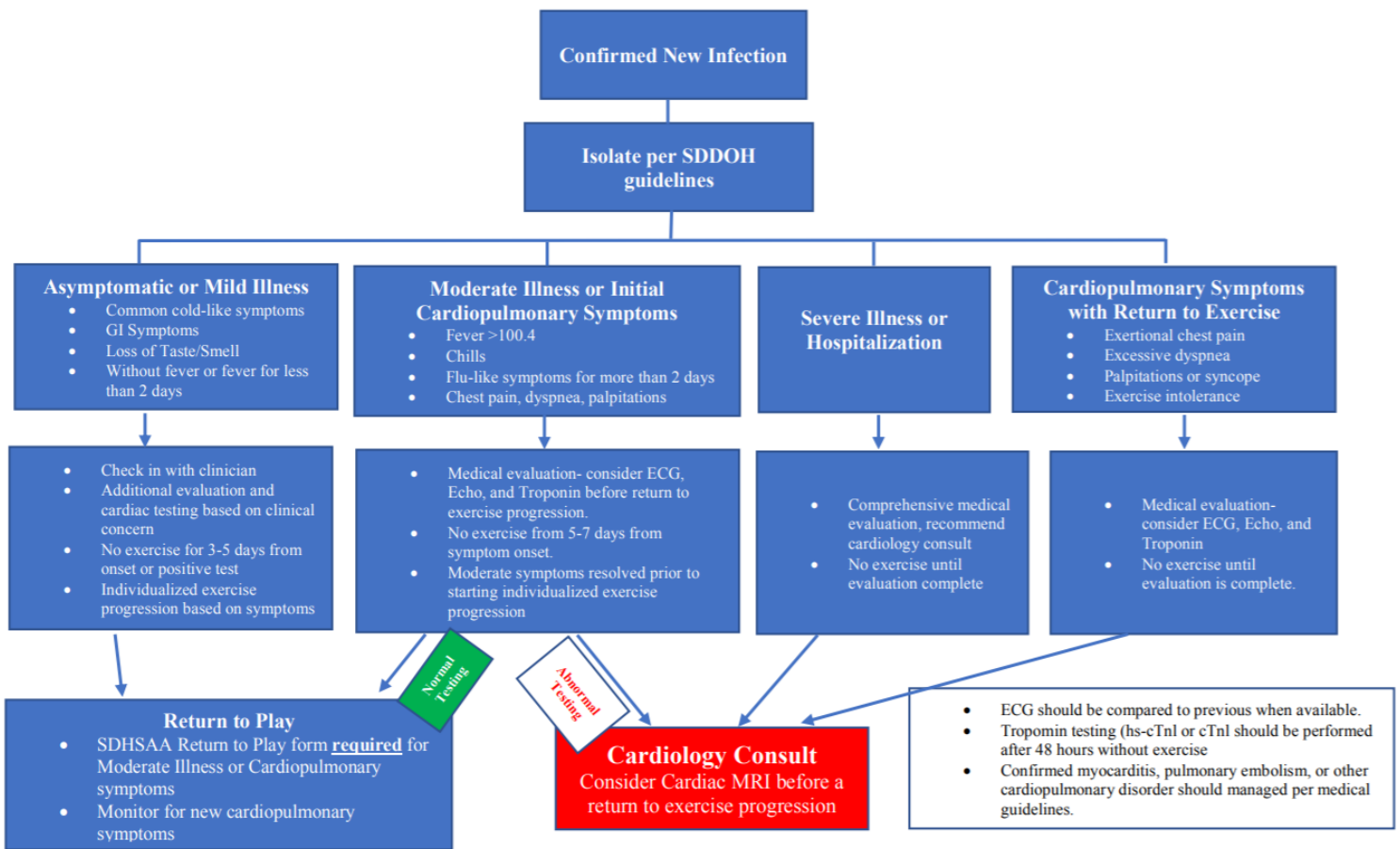
? What should I do if I have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for test results to come back?



“Close contact” includes:

- ✓ anyone who has been within 6 feet or less for 15 cumulative minutes or more (in a 24-hour period) of an infected person starting from the 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the person was isolated.

SDHSAA Protocols for COVID-19 Positive Student Athletes



LEARN MORE ABOUT COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA AT

COVID.sd.gov

