



All plans in this document are subject to change.

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. The De Smet School District will make adjustments based on scientific information, 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 De Smet School District asks all stakeholders to be flexible, understanding, and positive throughout this unprecedented time.

Students will have additional time built into their school schedule to accommodate hand washing/hand sanitizing procedures during the school day. Masks are recommended in school buildings when social distancing may not be an option. In certain circumstances, masks may be required to protect the health of both students and staff.

The SD Department of Health will alert a school of any student in the school who has tested positive. DOH will provide a letter to positive cases who complete their isolation period indicating they can return to school. Parents will be responsible to provide these letters to the school. The school district will collaborate with families and DOH to determine close contacts and their return to school/activities.

Communication regarding positive cases to the broader school community will be general to protect student/staff privacy (Appendix F).

The De Smet School District will provide in-person instruction beginning on Thursday, August 20, 2020. At the beginning of the year, time will be designated to recognize students' experiences with school closure, understand students' academic levels, and develop online procedures. Parents/guardians have the option for their child to participate in the district's remote learning program. Remote learning will also be provided for students unable to attend school due to extended illness or exposure.

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 14 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 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. Further, school attendance could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.

HOME HEALTH SCREENING

As the first line of defense, the district is urging parents to screen their child/children before sending them to school. In order for the school to remain open for face-to-face education, sick individuals cannot be sent to school. The chart below outlines symptoms and recommendations.

- **Symptoms**
 - **Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth**
 - **Sore throat**
 - **New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing**
 - **Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain**
 - **New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever**
- **Close Contact / Potential Exposure**
 - **Identified as a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case (15 minutes or more within 6 feet or less)**
 - **Had close contact with a person under quarantine**
 - **Traveled to or lived in an area where large numbers of COVID-19 are reported (New cases exceed rate of 100 cases per 100,000 population in the past week)**
 - **Live in areas of high (substantial) community transmission while the school remains open (<https://doh.sd.gov/news/coronavirus.aspx>)**

RED Symptom Alone =
Exclude until 24 hours
after fever resolves

BLUE Symptom Alone =
Exclusion for COVID-19
not necessary. Follow
existing school policy

GREEN exposure + **RED** or **BLUE** Symptom = Exclude until test
result is negative OR if untested, at least 10 days since symptom
onset (and 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved)

STUDENTS WHO BECOME SICK AT SCHOOL

I.C.E. Protocol will be followed

I - Isolate and Mask

C - Contact Parents Immediately

E - Exit school building ASAP

Office staff will wear PPE when in direct contact with sick students

TRANSPORTATION

Masks are recommended in school buses and school vehicles

Hand sanitizer will be installed on each bus

Buses will be sanitized after each trip

Students will sit in family groups

Busses should be filled from back to front

Windows open as often as possible

BUILDINGS

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

Plexiglass dividers will be used in office areas

Signs will be posted with preventative strategies
Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces

MEALS

Tables will be distanced
Grade levels will eat at the same tables
Salad bars will not be used
Lunch schedule will be adapted
Touchless lunch number entry
Vending machines in lobbies will be removed
No trading or sharing food
All school staff will receive free school lunch for additional duties

CLASSROOMS

Minimize the sharing of high touch materials
Reorient desks to minimize students facing each other
School-wide assemblies will be modified
Windows open when possible
Items that cannot be sanitized will be removed
Water bottles will be used instead of water fountains
Staff are encouraged to wear masks if working in close proximity

RECESS

Specific recess areas will be rotated for classes
Classrooms will have individual play equipment

ELEMENTARY SPECIAL CLASSES

Music and art will go into classrooms
PE will be outside as often as possible
PE equipment will be disinfected between classes

HS/MS ELECTIVE CLASSES

Social distance when possible
Group work within grade-level as often as possible
Recommended use of masks when working in mixed grade-level groups
PE outside when possible
Allow shorts throughout the school year
Procedures for faster locker room use will be put in place
6th-grade specials will be push-in when possible

VISITORS

Must be pre-approved and by appointment
No visitors will be allowed at lunchtime
Will be asked screening questions
Visitors will be encouraged to wear masks

SPECIAL EDUCATION

IEP and parent meetings will be virtual or via phone when possible
Service providers will disinfect between sessions/students
Plexiglass dividers will be used when needed

BAND AND CHOIR

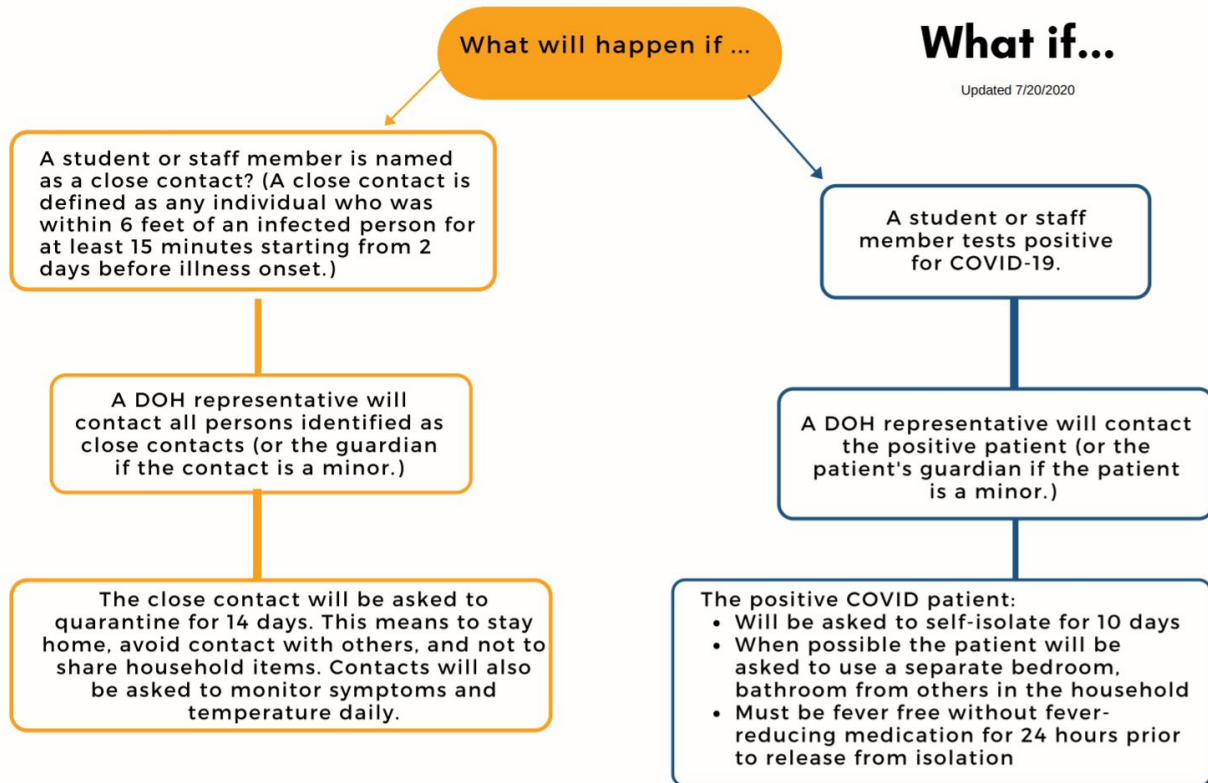
Masks will be required for band and choir
Band and choir will be held in the gym
Choir sections will be in grade-level groups
Pep Band will not play at volleyball games
Band instruments will have a screening material

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Follow guidelines set forth by SDHSAA
Parents may request to transport students to and from extracurricular events
Reduce the risk of exposure by not charging admission
Determine fan attendance based on current conditions
Designate visitor areas at the football field
Encourage at-risk fans to view contests online

<u>TIER</u>	<u>Fan Attendance</u>	<u>Conditions</u>
Tier 1	Open attendance	Steady/Decreasing rates of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations.
Tier 2	Parents/Student Body Only	Slow/intermittent increase of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations. Isolated cases, no evidence of exposures in large communal settings.
Tier 3	Student Body or Parents Only	Steady/incremental increase of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations. Sustained increases, potential exposures in large communal settings.
Tier 4	No Fans	Sharp increase of community active cases, new cases, and/or hospitalizations WITHOUT concurrent increase of cases/contacts within the school setting. Confirmed exposures in large communal settings.

APPENDIX A



CLOSE CONTACTS REMOVAL FROM QUARANTINE

Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Close Contacts*

REMOVAL OF QUARANTINE & ISOLATION CRITERIA for CLOSE CONTACT

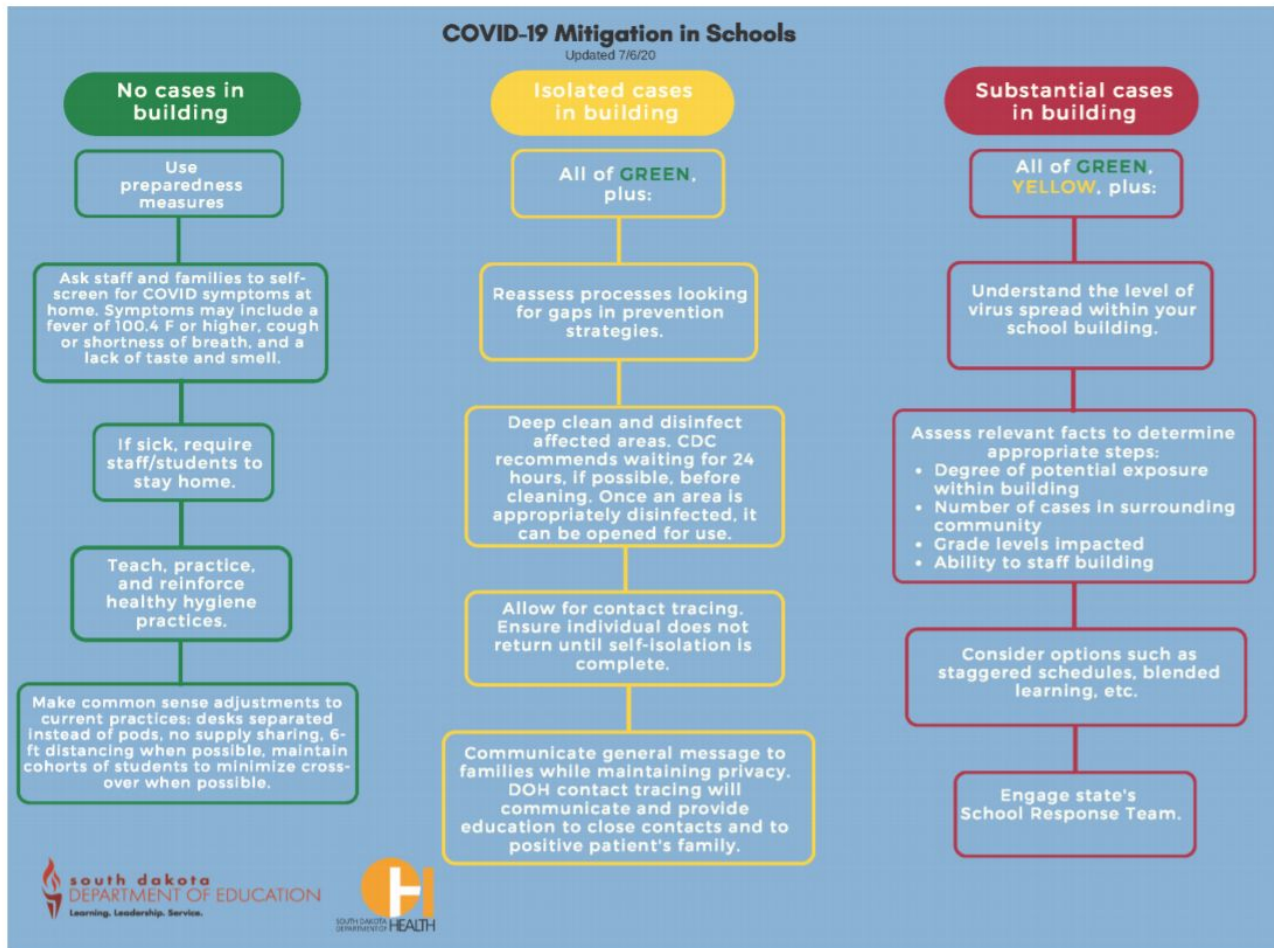
SYMPTOMATIC & ASYMPTOMATIC CONTACTS

- ☐ At least 14 days have passed since last exposure **AND**
- ☐ At least 1 days (24 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- ☐ Improvement in symptoms

* If an individual becomes symptomatic and tests positive during their quarantine period, they will be considered a positive case and will begin isolation

* Inform tribal members to contact their tribal leaders to confirm that they have permission to be released from isolation or quarantine.

APPENDIX B



COVID-19 School Scenarios

Planning for the school year under multiple conditions

Prepared by the South Dakota Department of Health - Revised July 7, 2020



Scenario One: No active cases in your community, and no cases in your school building

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

Scenario Two: Active cases in your community, but no cases in your school buildings

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

Scenario Three: Student or staff member identified by Department of Health as close contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside of the school community

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school should continue with appropriate preparedness measures in place.

Scenario Four: Active case is identified in one of your school buildings

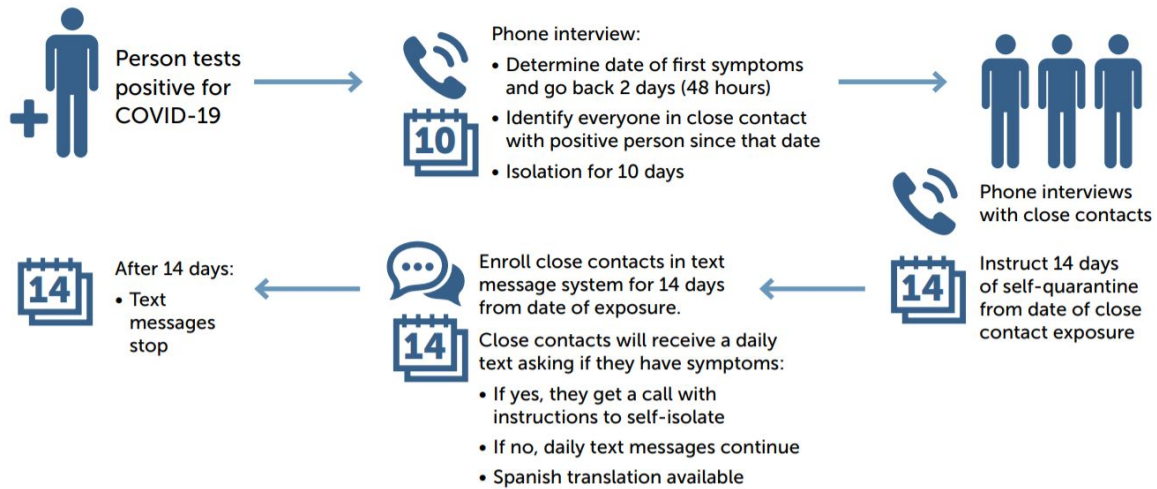
The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials reassess processes - looking for gaps in prevention strategies. In the short-term, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (if feasible) before cleaning and disinfecting. Once area is appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.

Scenario Five: Multiple active cases identified in your buildings at the same time

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials review relevant data to understand level of virus spread within the school building and conduct a risk/benefit analysis of factors such as degree of potential exposure within building; case trends in surrounding community; grade levels impacted; remote learning options; scheduling options; ability to staff buildings, etc. in determining the next steps. School leaders can request technical assistance from the DOH/DOE School Response Team if desired.

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU'VE HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH A POSITIVE CASE



DEFINITIONS

CONTACT TRACING: helps to find people exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 so they can be quarantined to stop further spread.

CLOSE CONTACT: six feet or less for more than fifteen minutes at a time

ISOLATION: separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

SELF-QUARANTINE: separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.



**ANSWER
the CALL**
to slow the spread
of COVID-19



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

covid.sd.gov

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 were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

ISOLATION

Isolation is for people who are **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 improved symptoms; AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for people who are **NOT SICK**, but may have been exposed.



Quarantined people may or may not become sick.



Quarantined people must 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 evaluation 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.

NOTE: Critical infrastructure employees with no symptoms may be required to report to work.



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

covid.sd.gov

July 27, 2020

APPENDIX F

GENERAL NOTIFICATION LETTER

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) 977-2880 or visit <https://covid.sd.gov/>.

Sincerely,