

The COVID-19 situation that is a rapidly changing one. Information in this document is current as of July 26, 2020, and is subject to change based on factual information.

INTRODUCTION

In consultation with the South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE), the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH), and numerous stakeholders (parents, community, business partners, and staff volunteers) of the Bowdle School District has developed A Return to School Plan, in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The purpose of this document is to articulate plans and strategies for reopening schools in the 2020-21 school year. As the school district works to implement these recommendations, it is critical to be intentional and prepared for change as the year unfolds in light of public health needs.

SD DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS SD DOE maintains the below assumptions:

- Schools will provide instruction in the fall and throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- COVID-19 will continue to spread, with or without a vaccine, through the next school year.
- Schools can take practical steps to mitigate spread of the virus while continuing to focus on student learning.
- Each district will make decisions based on scientific information at the time, current status of virus spread in and around the school community, and best interests of staff, students, and families.
- This document does not constitute a legal guide. Decision-making should be based on what we know to be factual about COVID-19, knowing that our understanding of the virus will continue to evolve:
 - The rate of infection and the mortality rate of COVID-19 is higher than that of influenza.
 - There are no known reliable therapeutics or vaccines for COVID-19.
 - These two factors combine to necessitate mitigation strategies beyond what a school would put in place for seasonal influenza.
 - Asymptomatic individuals are infectious, though not to the same degree as those displaying symptoms.
 - Children are carriers and are susceptible to the virus. Yet there are different levels of susceptibility throughout the population.
 - Measures such as social distancing and masks in confined spaces help reduce transmission.
- It is not known:
 - If you have had COVID-19, whether and when you could get it again.
 - Whether seasonality affects COVID-19.
 - How much higher the infection rate of COVID-19 is than influenza.

SD DOE expectations for schools:

- Schools will continue to be a safe environment for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health. Local decisions will be rooted in what is best for students.
- Schools will take reasonable steps within the context of COVID-19 spread in the community to protect the school community. National guidelines, while helpful to provide a context, are only a guide. SD DOE expects school leaders to make reasoned judgments to limit the spread but still provide for continuity of learning.
- Every student will have the opportunity to engage in a full year of learning, irrespective of the spread of COVID-19 in a community.
- School leaders will work transparently with their school boards, staff, and community to communicate decisions and the underlying assumptions guiding those decisions.
- School leaders will need to make difficult decisions to ensure the health – both mental and physical – of their entire school community.

This document is built upon the guidance and recommendations of public health officials; it is aligned to the South Dakota Department of Education Starting Well 2020 guidance published on June 10, 2020, and recommendations from the South Dakota Department of Health. It is designed to prioritize the health and safety of students and staff as school buildings are reopened and delivering instruction for the 2020-21 school year.

BOWDLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a school district community, we can agree to the guidelines of opening:

- PK-12 education is critically essential to the national security of our nation.
- The goal is to have students at the Bowdle School District's to have instructional reentry.
- The decision to open up the school districts will fall upon the Bowdle's Board of Education and the Superintendent.
- Parents and students would prefer traditional face-to-face learning and social interaction with their peers.
- Bowdle students still interact with their peers both inside or outside of the school building.
- The school district is a community support system for all stakeholders
- Everybody kids are somebody kids.

Facts:

- Since July 26, 2020, 61 of 66 South Dakota counties have confirmed cases.
- Currently, Edmunds County has a population of 3,829 people.
 - Edmunds County is on the bottom 25% of confirmed cases
 - Ten (10) positive cases, which 10 cases have recovered.
 - Zero (0) active cases currently in Edmunds County.
 - Disease spread is minimal to moderate at this time.
 - Case trend is very flat.
- Bowdle has a smaller enrollment, which is advantageous in dealing with the caveats of social distancing, learning, meals and special services.
- COVID19 is airborne. COVID19 attached to variable proteins in the cell membrane. However, lot of unclear points since it first human transmission was less than a year ago with conflicting messages from various sources.
- The State of South Dakota Department of Education or Department of Health has left their playbook for reopening open-ended for each school district on how a school should be open. This can look very different comparing various school district, regional, and county level areas., but they make recommendation, but won't make items mandatory or required.

Bowdle School District 22-1 Daily Operations:

The school district reentry process will be broken down into phases. To move up a phase, it will require that we do not have a positive case of COVID19 from students, employees and families. The school day will begin at 8AM and end at 3:20PM. Our base line for active case is currently set to 1.

Phase 1 (Black Phase): Immediate lockdown of the school building and entering the alternative instruction phase via online through Google Meet & Google Classroom and/or paper packets. No parent or visitor entry into the school. All junior high and high school computers will go home. All elementary student computers will be delivered through contactless delivery.

Phase 2 (Blue Phase): All who take transportation services will need be driven in by their guardian, no school district transportation. Elementary students will report to school for classroom instruction with the junior high and high school students will have alternative learning instruction. No entry into the school.

Phase 3 (Red Phase): All students who take transportation services will need be cluster with their family members be subjected to social distancing rules, symptoms and temperature checks. All student will be returning back to school with social distancing measures. No entry into the school

Phase 4 (Yellow Phase): All students who take transportation services will not need to be cluster and may sit with others. All students are subject to symptoms and temperature checks. Limited volunteer entry into the school with proper prescreening.

Phase 5 (Green Phase): All students will return to normal operations in carrying on class. Limited entry for outside individuals with proper screening.

Moving up a phase will occur every 14 days with no cases from families, students or employees within our school district. Moving down a phase or two will occur when there is a documented positive case from families, students or employees resulting in a percentage increase of active coronavirus caseloads of 250% moving down one phase, 500% moving down two phases, 750% moving down three phases, 1000% moving down four phases.

The baseline for all phases will be based on active caseload of 1 and that may be recalculated on a needed basis by looking at current data, local trends and environment.

Academic School Transportation Services Re-entry - Bus Routes:

All Phases

- No households attending Bowdle Schools will be allowed to claim mileage to take their students to and from school at any phase.
- All Bus drivers will be provided with wipes, gloves, face masks and/or shields for their protection.
- Air will not be recirculated, bus windows shall be open (weather appropriate), to make fresh air available.
- Bus driver will be responsible for cleaning seats where students sat on the bus.
- All bus drivers will take and record temperatures when entering the bus.
 - Students demonstrating symptoms or fail the temperature screening will not be admitted. If symptoms persist, then consult with your local medical professional (Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Chiropractic, Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners).
- Parents will need to do their screenings at home for any COVID19 symptoms.
 - Student who have any COVID19 symptoms will need to stay home.
 - Parents, **DO NOT** provide students any fever-reducer medication
- All students must **NOT** have any COVID 19 symptoms including a spike in temperature.
- Students will need to go see a medical professional (Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Chiropractic, Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners) if they cannot explain their symptoms.
- If a student goes home from the school for any symptoms, they will need to visit a medical professional (Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Chiropractic, Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners), and explain those symptoms to make the determination to be cleared back to school.
- Social distancing.

Phase 3 (Red Phase)

- Students of the same family will be sitting together.
- Bus drivers will be using the following vehicles student will be clustered distance:
 - Bus #6 will be on the south route
 - Bus #3 will be on the west route
 - Bus #8 will be on the north route
- Bus drop will be at Doorway I to prevent rescreening. Bus pickup will be at Doorway A.
- All students will fill the bus from back to front starting with the first pickup to minimize transmission. Departing will start from the front to the rear.

Phase 4 (Yellow Phase)

- Same as all previous phases.

Phase 5 (Green Phase)

- Same as all previous phases.
- All students who take transportation services will not need to be cluster and may sit with others

- All of our bus drivers will be using the following bus routes so student will be clustered:
 - Bus #2 or 6 will be on the south route based on student ridership.
 - Bus #8 will be on the west route
 - Bus #14 will be on the north route
- Normal Configuration

General Entry into the school:

All Phases:

- No households attending Bowdle Schools will be allowed to claim mileage to take their students to and from school at any phase.
- Parents will need to do their screenings at home for any COVID19 symptoms.
 - Student who have any COVID19 symptoms will need to stay home.
 - Parents, **DO NOT** provide students any fever-reducer medication
- All students must **NOT** have any COVID 19 symptoms including a spike in temperature.
- Students will need to go see a medical professional (Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Chiropractic, Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners) to be cleared reentry into any school district building if they cannot explain their symptoms.
- Students not riding the bus will enter through Doorway A subject to a temperature screening.
- If a student goes home from the school for any symptoms, they will need to visit a medical professional (Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Chiropractic, Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners) and explain those symptoms to make the determination to be cleared back to school.
- Social distancing.
- Parents/Guardians, Visitors and Vendors will not be allowed entry into the Bowdle School District for drop off or pick-up.
 - Parents/Guardians will need to stay until the student clears the screening station
 - Parents/Guardians will only be in the building under situations approved by the administration (e.g. a 504 or a medical emergency).
 - Subjected to screening if entry occurs
 - Vendors will not be allowed access to the building during instructional time.
 - Alternative meeting times and location with staff.
 - All packages will need to be dropped at the doorway for the employee pick up.
- All students will report to their classrooms first thing after checking in.
 - PK-6 will be in their classrooms.
 - Grades 7-12 will report to their advisors.
 - Students walking to designated areas need to form a line and stay to the right.
- Hand sanitizer, face masks and shields will be available at Doorway A and I.
- Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available to all classrooms.
- Face masks or shields are recommended but not required by students, employees.

Phase 5 (Green Phase)

- Normal operation configuration.

Classroom Environment & Instruction:

All Phases

- Suspension of the Perfect Attendance Award due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Students will social distance as best as they can
- Limit common areas into rooms
- Teachers should have doors and windows open students so they do not have to touch door handles to circulate air.
- Students and desks are facing one direction.
- Remove reading areas from the elementary.
- Temporality remove any kidney style or circulating style tables and seats unless students and staff are wearing a face mask or shield.
- Specials will still be conducted as normal with appropriate social distancing
- Recess will be normal outside.
- Student moving through the hallways should keep right, elementary students need to walk in straight lines and should be stressed to keep moving and do not touch things.
- Large group events need to be space out and social distance by grade level.
- Hallways need to be cleared and students should not be lingering in the locker area or hallways. No students need to be leaving the classroom three minutes before or after the bell.
- All water fountains in the building will be disabled. We will keep the bottle filling stations open. If students want water throughout the day, they should bring a water bottle.
- Teachers should only allow one student to go to the bathroom at a time.
- Handwashing at the PK-6th level:
 - Teachers will put handwashing times into their lesson plans. These times will be after recesses, specials, and before lunch.
- Handwashing at the 7-12th grade
 - Teachers will put handwashing times into their lesson plans before lunch and advisory time.

Alternative Instruction:

- District support of students/families that may decide to opt out of in person instruction due a documented pre-existing health issues and/or personal risk management of potential exposure to Covid-19.
 - a. If a parent has elected to mitigate the potential risk of exposure to Covid-19 by not physically sending their student(s) to school during Phase Black, Blue, Red, Yellow and/or Green then they will receive their education online via an on-line learning platform via the South Dakota Virtual School at the expense of the Bowdle School District. Should a family elect to exercise this option they are committed to attendance of this program on a semester by semester basis. They may not opt to return to the traditional school house in the middle of the semester regardless of whether the school instructional operation phase. They may only return at the completion of the current semester enrolled. Students will be responsible for the submission of homework as assigned via the on-line learning platform courses and

will receive the corresponding credits with the Bowdle School District upon successful completion. Students that fail to successfully complete work for the semester through the on-line learning option will not receive credit from the Bowdle School District and may be required retake classes or grade levels depending upon the status of their work with the on-line learning platform at the parent expense or and will be return to the traditional face-to-face environment. Students that are on an IEP will continue to receive their service minutes from the Bowdle School District via Online Teleconferencing.

- b. If a family chooses this portion then all family member attending taking this option must go alternative or virtual school.
- c. Students have not failed course work at Bowdle Schools would be ineligible for this service.
- d. In addition, students must a get a medical note documenting on why this student cannot physically go back to in-person, face to face instruction due to a valid medical reason.

Meal Services:

Phase 1 (Black Phase):

Meals services will not be provided unless it is Summer Seamless Option.

Phase 2 (Blue Phase):

- Students and Teacher will eat in their classroom
- Students will pick up their tray from the cafeteria.
- No salad bar or condiments.
- No seconds or extra milk services
- No leftover will be served

Phase 3 (Red Phase): Meal Services will be broken down as followed:

- No student will be left behind to finish.
- All students face one direction, sitting by facing west and south
 - Social distancing applies
- Salad Bar is employee assisted by face shield/gloves/mask required
- Lunch will be split schedule
 - PK-2 students
- Grades 3-6 students
 - Salad Bar will require students to social distance
- Grades 7-12 students will eat as followed
 - Band/Choir students in Music Class will eat at 1230 to 1255
 - Study Hall groups will eat at 1200 to 1225
- Teachers grab extra milks for elementary morning milk and lunch milk
- Seconds served to high school students only

Phase 4 (Yellow Phase): Meal Services will be broken down as followed:

- Leftovers served to high school students only.
- Seconds served to all students only

Phase 5 (Green Phase):

- Normal operation configuration. Leftover, extra milk, and seconds serve normal.

WARNING: Positive Case found in the physical building of Bowdle School District

If a student testing positive for COVID19 or is designated by Department of Health as a close contact, they will not be allowed reentry into any school district until we have a copy of the letter that they have been quarantine or isolated which the parent will have it on hand and be responsible to provide these letters to the school.

If a student or employee has symptoms or a positive case of COVID19 then they will be subjected to the ICE protocol for the safety of the school district stakeholders.

- The ICE protocol will be as followed:
 - Isolated and mask them immediately
 - Contact the parent or emergency contact
 - Exit them from your facilities near you as quickly and as soon as possible.

Staff or student who are potentially exposed or have a positive case for COVID19:

- A person who test positive for COVID19 will not be allowed reentry into any school district building until we have a DOH letter confirming that they have been cleared.
 - The school district would provide them with absent exempt and will allow the school district to start emergency sanitation protocols immediately by determining affected areas.
 - We would provide no-contact assignments to the student's family and laptops.
 - DOH will contact the staff of student (guardian if they are a minor) if they are positive.
 - Positive Case Staff or Student
 - Be asked to self-isolate for 10 days
 - Used separate bedroom or bathroom from their household
 - Must be fever free without any medication for 24 hours prior to the release from isolation.
- A person who comes to close contact exposure
 - Any person who less than 6 feet away from an infected person for at least 15 minutes.
 - DOH will contact all staff of student (guardian if they are a minor) identified as a close contact.
 - Close contact Staff or Student
 - Be asked to quarantine for 14 days
 - Stay Home,
 - Avoid Contact with others
 - Not share with bedroom or bathroom space.
 - Request they see a medical professional (Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of Chiropractic, Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners) to be cleared reentry into any school district building.
- If a student has a fever, they will be asked to mask up with a parent contact and visit a professional, with a doctor note to be cleared for reentry by the school
- If a student who has a positive case and does not want to self-quarantine or isolate and tries to enter the school then DOH and law enforcement will be notified.

Any area that is considered contaminated will need 24 hours before cleaning and sanitization will be required. We will immediate use an aerosol fogger that has been cleared by the EPA to handle the coronavirus. We will wait for the fogger to do it job overnight and it will be considered disinfected.

Electrostatic cleaners will be used once a week.

School District will inform using school messenger to inform them to be redirected to the school website for any of the following:

- School Closures other than due to weather for students and employees.

- Exposure Letter

- Distance Learning Plans

- Any process to the above on the following level.

Employees:

- The school district will not utilize extra or hiring additional staff to deliver instruction.
- Teachers should open doors for kids so they do not have to touch door handles.
 - Best yet leave your doors open
- All staff will be expected to wipe down their desks, tables, chairs, sweep and etc., at the end of each instructional day.
 - To minimize spread
- Custodial staff will wipe down common areas and hallways. When the electrostatic cleaner arrives then we will fog the entire building once a week depending on the phase.
- Face masks or shields are recommended but not required. All cooks or if your serving food will be required to wear a mask and/or face shield.
- All employee will still be followed by the negotiated agreement.
- Any employee may be granted unpaid Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which an employee can exhaust their sick and/or personal leave. If an employee exhausts their time then it will be unpaid unless they have been approved to use the certified or non-certified sick leave bank.
- Any employee feels that they cannot perform their assign duties will need to see me personally.
 - If an employee who does not want to return back to work may use unpaid FMLA, which an employee can exhaust their sick and/or personal leave. If an employee exhausts their time then it will be unpaid.
- An employee may work remotely only they are mandated by the South Dakota Department of Health via a letter because a positive case or close contact for COVID19, and wants to provide instruction from home. They will return from work remotely when the school district gets the Department of Health letter.
- If you need a substitute, it will be the same as normal.

