Sisseton School District Return to School "At a Glance" Guidance

The Sisseton School District 54-2 will follow guidelines from the South Dakota Department of Health and South Dakota Department of Education when developing and implementing return to school plans.

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

The Sisseton 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. COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk.

All plans in this document are subject to change based upon guidance and recommendations from the South Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Student/Staff Health Screening	- Parents/guardians are required to complete a daily symptom screening checklist each day for each student. If any COVID-19 symptoms are present, the student must stay home. - Staff are required to conduct a temperature and daily symptom screen upon arrival or prior to arrival to work. If any COVID-19 symptoms are present, the staff member will go home. - Staff and students must stay home if they have: - Tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms for COVID-19. - Have SD Dept of Health confirmed close contact with a person with COVID-19. - Staff/students are only allowed back in school after criteria to return have been met
Entering/Exiting Buildings	- Students & staff are expected to practice social distancing and maintain a 6' space from other individuals when entering/exiting the building. - Designated entrances and exits will be used by students and staff.
Facemasks – Students	- It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that students wear masks at all times when feasible to do so, and whenever within 6' of another student or staff member. - Facemasks are required for students using district transportation.
Facemasks - Staff	Staff are **REQUIRED** to wear masks in common locations, such as hallways, lunchrooms, and when within 6' of a student or another staff member.
Hand Washing & Sanitizing	- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, near all entrances, in common areas, and school vehicles, including buses. - Increased opportunities for handwashing will be provided throughout the school day.
Classroom Arrangement	- Classrooms will be arranged to allow for maximum social distancing. A 3-6' space between all students might not be able to be maintained in all locations. Seating charts will be maintained by all teachers. - Clear barriers will be added in locations where students may need to work in close proximity to each other.
Food Service	- Students will have staggered lunch periods or expanded dining locations to increase the distance between students during meal service. - An open salad bar will be eliminated to reduce shared contact with salad bar utensils.
Bus Transportation	**Note:** Due to the nature of bus transportation and difficulty in maintaining social distancing on the bus, there is a heightened risk in using bus transportation. - All individuals utilizing school transportation are required to wear a facemask through the duration of the trip.

	• Parents/guardians must complete a daily symptom screening checklist for each student before they board the bus. • Parents/guardians are encouraged to provide private transportation when able to reduce the number of passengers on a bus. • Students will apply provided hand sanitizer when entering the bus. • Seating will be assigned by household. • Guests will not be allowed on district buses. • Buses will be sanitized after each trip.
Water Fountains	• All buildings will have increased access to water bottle filling stations. The use of individual, transparent, water bottles is encouraged. • Spigots for water fountains for individual use will be turned off.
Hallway Use	• Students will walk on the right side of the hallway and will be encouraged to practice social distancing to the extent possible during passing periods.
School Visitors	• Access for individuals who are not district employees or students will be limited. Appointments are encouraged for those needing to meet on-campus. Virtual appointments are also available. • Visitors entering school buildings must wear a facemask.
Facility Use	• Outside organizations using district facilities must follow the SD Department of Health guidelines, including expectations for social distancing and crowd sizes.
Extracurricular Activities	• Guidance from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, SD Department of Education, and the SD Department of Health will be followed when making decisions on extracurricular Activities. • SDHSAA activities will begin following established dates and SDHSAA updated requirements. • Attendance at athletic activities may be limited.
Student Illness During the School Day	• Students presenting any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will immediately be required to wear a mask and will be isolated from their peers. • A parent/guardian or family member will be required to pick up the student from school. • District transportation will not be available for students presenting any COVID-like symptoms. • Students with COVID-like symptoms will remain home for ten days unless given clearance to return to school by a medical professional. Students will participate in distance learning during this time frame.
COVID-19 Positive Activity with School Affiliation	• The SD Department of Health will contact the Sisseton School District if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. • The Sisseton School District will work with the SD DOH to determine close contacts within the school setting. The SD DOH will notify these close contacts. • A student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school after finishing the recommended time in self-isolation (typically 10-14 days after symptom-onset or a positive test if asymptomatic). • A student or staff member who has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school after finishing the recommended time in self-quarantine (currently 14 days after exposure). • Students with COVID-19 and close contacts will engage in distance learning during their isolation or quarantine period. • The SD Department of Health, in consultation with district administrators, will determine if a classroom, building, or all district buildings may need to close for a period of time. This decision will align with a move to blended learning or long-term distance learning.