

Sisseton School District 54-2 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

The Sisseton School District 54-2 will continue practices of transparency with stakeholders around mitigation efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and strategies to ensure students have access to needed services for academic success. As outlined in the American Rescue Plan Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) and accompanying interim final rules, these strategies must be publicly re-evaluated at a minimum of every six months through September 2023.

Date of School Board Approval: August 9, 2021

Date of Last Review: December 13, 2021

The Sisseton School District has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. The top priority in all decisions made by the Sisseton School District is the health, safety, and well-being of our students, employees, and school communities while maintaining a focus on providing high-quality, in-person, instruction for all of our students. Remote learning will not be available for students enrolled in the Sisseton School District for the 2021-22 school year. Students unable to attend school due to DOH quarantine or isolation periods will be asked to participate in classroom instruction as able and will be provided with extended time to complete missing work upon their return to the classroom.

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

The district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff; and the extent to which the district has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) safety recommendations including: Universal and correct wearing of masks, Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (may include cohorting), Handwashing etiquette, Respiratory etiquette, Cleaning of facilities, Maintaining healthy facilities (may include improvements to ventilation), Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies, Contact tracing in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials, Quarantine policy for close contacts, whether identified in the school setting or outside of the school setting, in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials, Isolation policy for positive COVID-19 cases, in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials, Diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19, Efforts to provide vaccinations for eligible members of the school community, and Coordination with state and local health officials.

Link to Sisseton School District ARP Plan:

<https://www.sisseton.k12.sd.us/cms/lib/SD50000464/Centricity/Domain/160/ARP%20ESSER%20LEA%20Plan%20Sisseton%208-4-2021.pdf>

Sisseton School District Language Link Interpreting Services:

To access an interpreter over the phone:

1. Dial 1-888-338-7394
2. Enter client account code: 28574

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

- a. Students & staff who are are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are encouraged to wear face coverings.

- b. Students and staff are expected to wear face coverings on the school bus per CDC Health Order (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>)
 - c. Mask use will not be required in outdoor settings.
 - d. If there is an increase in COVID-19 infections within the school or community, mask requirements may be put into place through official action from the Sisseton School Board.
- B. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (may include cohorting)
- a. The goal of social distancing is to limit physical contact as a means to limit virus spread within the community setting. Where possible, classroom seating will follow the recommended 3 ft spacing to reduce potential exposure to illness.
 - b. Parents may request that their child be seated at a desk with a Plexiglass shield
 - c. Students in elementary will be cohorted for a majority of the day in order to limit potential exposure to illness.
- C. Handwashing / Respiratory etiquette
- a. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, near all entrances, in common areas, and school vehicles, including buses.
 - b. Increased opportunities for handwashing will be provided throughout the school day.
- D. Respiratory etiquette
- a. Students/staff will be expected to cough or sneeze into a tissue or elbow while covering the mouth and nose with an arm, immediately throwing the tissue into a trash can.
 - b. Washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer if a handwashing station is not readily available will be expected after using a tissue.
- E. Maintaining healthy facilities
- a. Classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas will be cleaned daily by Sisseton School District custodial staff
 - b. Large gathering areas (gymnasiums and lunchrooms) have ionization systems installed for improved air quality.
- F. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
- a. IEP teams will review individual student medical needs for appropriate accommodations related to health and safety practices and policies.
- G. Contact tracing in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials
- a. The Sisseton School District will follow contact tracing orders from health officials.
- H. Quarantine policy for close contacts, whether identified in the school setting or outside of the school setting, in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials
- a. Students and staff members are strongly encouraged to follow quarantine procedures as determined and designated by the South Dakota Department of Health.
- I. Isolation policy for positive COVID-19 cases, in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials
- a. Students and staff members testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to remain home for the duration of the DOH isolation period.
- J. Diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19
- a. Students and staff members who begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day may participate in district-sponsored COVID testing using BinaxNOW tests if trained staff are available to administer the tests. Written parent permission is required prior to testing.

Students and staff may utilize other community testing sites to obtain diagnostic COVID-19 results.

- b. Asymptomatic COVID screening kits may be provided to students and staff for at-home use once these kits are made available to the school district by the SD DOH.

K. Efforts to provide vaccinations for eligible members of the school community

- a. The Sisseton School District hosted a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in March 2021 for any eligible staff member wishing to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. District staff and local healthcare providers, including the Woodrow Wilson Keeble Memorial Health Care Center – IHS and Coteau des Prairies Healthcare have provided vaccinations for district staff, students, and community members.

- b. The Sisseton High School facility is a POD facility if a community-wide vaccination location is required.

L. Coordination with state and local health officials

- a. The Sisseton School District will continue to work with state and local health officials to implement local, state, or Federal governmental health orders. 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.

The district will ensure continuity of educational services for students through the following:

Services to address students’ academic needs, including learning loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students will participate in in-person education services. • Supplemental instruction and/or tutoring services will be provided to students based on individualized student need. • Extended timeframes for assignment completion will be provided for students not able to participate in daily classroom instruction due to isolation or quarantine orders. • Credit recovery options will be provided for students needing to regain credits to graduate in their cohort.
Students’ social, emotional, and mental health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sisseton School District will continue to partner with local and regional service providers to provide extended counseling opportunities for students. • A school counselor will be placed in each attendance center to provide additional social, emotional, and mental health support for students.
Staff members’ social, emotional, and mental health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sisseton School District will continue to partner with local and regional service providers to provide extended counseling opportunities for staff members. • A school counselor will be placed in each attendance center to provide additional social, emotional, and mental health support for staff.
Food services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have staggered lunch periods or expanded dining locations to increase the distance between students during meal service.
Student health, if not addressed in the above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sisseton School District will continue to partner with Avera Health to provide telehealth support services to students and will also offer student health care with the district-employed Registered Nurse.

Health & Safety Protocols

<p>Student/Staff Health Screening & Illness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians are asked to complete a daily symptom screening each day for each student, and staff are asked to complete a daily symptom screening prior to reporting to work. If any COVID-19 symptoms are present, please stay at home. • Students and staff members who become ill during the school day will be asked to wear a facemask and until they are able to go home. • Staff and students may request a COVID-19 on-site test, based on testing supply and testing staff availability, if required to leave school due to COVID-19 symptoms. Take-home COVID-19 tests may be sent home with students and families, if available. • Staff and students must stay home if they have tested positive for COVID-19 and will remain home until the end of the COVID-19 isolation period.
<p>Entering/Exiting Buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students & staff are expected to practice social distancing when entering/exiting the building. • Designated entrances and exits will be used by students and staff.
<p>Face Covering Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students & staff who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are encouraged to wear face coverings.
<p>Classroom Arrangement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms will be arranged to allow for maximum social distancing. A 3' space between all students might not be able to be maintained in all locations. Seating charts will be maintained by all teachers. • Clear barriers may be added in locations where students may need to work in close proximity to each other.
<p>Bus Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Due to the nature of bus transportation and difficulty in maintaining social distancing on the bus, there may be a heightened risk in using bus transportation. • Students and staff are encouraged to wear face coverings when in district vehicles. • Students will apply provided hand sanitizer when entering the bus. • Seating will be assigned by household. • Guests will not be allowed on district buses.
<p>School Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for visitors may be limited. Appointments are encouraged for those needing to meet on-campus. Virtual appointments are also available. • Unvaccinated visitors are strongly encouraged to wear facemasks.
<p>Facility Use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside organizations using district facilities are asked follow the SD Department of Health guidelines, including expectations for social distancing and crowd sizes.
<p>Extracurricular Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 related to extracurricular Activities. • SDHSAA activities will begin following established dates and SDHSAA COVID-19 related requirements. • Participants in SDHSAA activities are required to follow COVID-19 protocols. • Attendance at athletic activities may be limited with increased COVID-19 activity.

SISSETON SCHOOL DISTRICT
COVID-19 QUARANTINE POLICY

(Approved 8-09-2021)

1. While not required, it is recommended that all students and staff wear a face-covering whenever unable to maintain a 6ft. spacing from students/staff, when in common areas including building hallways, and when using district transportation services. District staff are expected to wear a face-covering when working within 6ft of other students/staff for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour timeframe and when exhibiting symptoms such as a runny nose, cough, etc.
2. The SD Department of Health determines who is considered a close contact and conducts out-of-school close contact investigations, and recommends who should be quarantined.
3. The Sisseton School District strongly encourages those identified as close contacts to follow the SD-DOH recommendation of a 10-Day quarantine.
4. The district will use social distancing and length of contact time in determining whether an individual is considered a potential school-based close contact.
5. Students and staff identified as a potential close contact may remain in school under the following conditions:
 - Remain symptom-free
 - Wear a face covering (with the exception of while eating lunch)
 - Complete daily health screening & temperature check(s)
 - When available, take-home COVID tests will be provided for additional screening.
6. All district-identified potential close contacts will be reported to the SD Department of Health for further investigation.

Students and staff with COVID-19 are required to follow SD Department of Health isolation orders.

Please contact the SD Department of Health (1-800-997-2880) or <https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/> for further information on quarantine and isolation periods.

Students in quarantine due to close contact or students in isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test are encouraged to engage in daily online learning. Please contact your child's building if your child needs a computer device for home use during the quarantine/isolation period.