

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 Original School Board Approval: August 9, 2021

Date of Last Update/Review: June 13, 2022

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 2022-23 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 not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are encouraged to wear face coverings when the COVID-19 CDC community level is high.

- b. Mask use will not be required in outdoor settings.
 - c. If there is a substantial 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. Classrooms may be arranged to allow for maximum social distancing. A 3' space between all students might not be able to be maintained in all locations.
- C. Handwashing / Respiratory etiquette
 - a. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, near entrances, in common areas, and in school vehicles.
 - 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. Universal case investigation and contact tracing are no longer recommended by the CDC for COVID-19. COVID-19 case activity will be reported on the district website.
- 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. COVID-19 screening kits may be provided to students and staff for at-home use based on SD DOH test availability.
 - b. Students and staff may utilize other community testing sites to obtain diagnostic COVID-19 results.
- 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 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 needs. Extended timeframes for assignment completion will be provided for students not able to participate in daily classroom instruction due to isolation 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 may 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

Student/Staff Health Screening & Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff presenting symptoms of any contagious illness are asked to stay home. If any COVID-19 symptoms are present, families are encouraged to contact a medical provider for further guidance. Students and staff members who become ill during the school day will be asked to wear a facemask until they are able to go home. 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.
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Entering/Exiting Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated entrances and exits will be used by students and staff.
Face Covering Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students & staff who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are encouraged to wear face coverings when the COVID-19 CDC community level is high.
Classroom Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classrooms may 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.
Bus Transportation	<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. Guests will not be allowed on district buses.
School Visitors	<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 when the COVID-19 CDC community level is high.
Facility Use	<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.
Extracurricular Activities	<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 POLICY

(Updated 6-13-2022)

1. Students and staff with COVID-19 are required to follow SD Department of Health isolation orders.
2. The SD Department of Health determines who is considered a close contact, conducts out-of-school close contact investigations, and identifies quarantine procedures.
3. The Sisseton School District encourages those identified as close contacts to follow the SD-DOH quarantine recommendations.

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 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 isolation period.