



# Moving Forward

## Harding County School District 31-1 2021-2022 School Year

The 2021-2022 Moving Forward Plan is subject to change based on updated South Dakota Department of Health Guidance, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and COVID-19 trends within our school district and areas we serve.

Our District will seek Input on whether to revise our plan at minimum of every 6 months.  
*August 2021, December 2021, June 2022, December 2022, June 2023*

Board Approval: **August 2021**

Last Review Date: August 2020, October 2021, **November 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 (update)**,  
December 2021, February 2021

Contact Person: Josh Page (605) 375-3241



### **Statement**

The Harding County School District wants staff, students, and community members to be safe from communicable diseases such as COVID-19. We believe that our environment at school gives students the best chance to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. We will need a group effort from parent(s)/guardian(s), school personnel, and students to make school a safe environment for learning.

### **Assumption of Risk**

The Harding County School District acknowledges that there is no way to guarantee a totally safe environment from an infectious disease but implementing best practices and following deliberate procedures has proven to significantly reduce the risk and the spread of the coronavirus infection.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Opportunities**

Harding County School District works closely with our local Monument Health clinic. They do provide vaccination opportunities for staff and students if they choose. We will not promote or recommend the vaccine as we believe it to be a personal choice.

### **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

The district will not be testing staff/students at our facilities but will arrange for Quidel QuickVue tests to be delivered from the South Dakota Department of Health.

### **Instructional Plans and Schedules**

South Dakota School Districts are required to have plans in place to ensure continuity of educational services should the state's COVID-19 metrics change significantly, requiring additional restrictions to control the spread of the disease. These plans will be the foundation for a successful and agile academic school year. Depending on circumstances in Harding County School District at the time, we need to be prepared to implement a Distance Learning plan that meets the needs of our families. Harding County School will continue to utilize S.D. DOH, S.D. DOE, and our local health providers for updated guidance and recommendations. The school district administration will decide on what Phase of the plan we will be in based on the number of cases in our area and the recommendation of the S.D. DOE, S.D. DOH, and our local health care providers.

### **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs of Students and Staff**

The Harding County School District will continue to partner with local and regional service providers to provide extended counseling opportunities for students and staff. Our district has a counselor to provide ongoing social, emotional, and mental health support for students.

### **Parent Expectation**

- Parents are important to helping the school environment safe for students.
- The Harding County School District is requesting that parent(s)/guardian(s) check students' temperature daily and that their student feels well prior to going to school to prevent prolonged remote at home learning.
  - If a student has a fever over 100.4, the South Dakota Department of Health recommends students stay home for three days without fever-reducing medication ([https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Schools\\_ReopeningChecklist.pdf](https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Schools_ReopeningChecklist.pdf)).
- Make sure that your child(ren) practice good hygiene skills such as washing their hands after using the restroom and touching surfaces that have been touched by other individuals.
- **DO NOT** use medicine to mask a fever and send them to school.
- Please have your students bring a sanitized water container daily.



- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are allowed in the building during school hours. This could change if cases develop throughout the year.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) and community members should use hand sanitizer when coming into the building for extra-curricular activities and other school functions such as parent/teacher conferences. Sanitizer stations will be provided at school entrances for these events.

### **Attendance**

- The most significant shift in looking at attendance this year is that every family member and staff member needs to make sure that **IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME!**
- Any student or staff member presenting COVID-19 symptoms should stay home until their symptoms are no longer present.

### **Students Expectations**

- Students need to practice good hygiene practice such as sanitizing hands before entering classroom, while entering and exiting restrooms, before and after recess(es), before and after eating, and before and after sporting practice/competitions.
- Students have the option to wear a mask to school, but it is **not** mandated.
- Social distance yourself as much as you can on school buses, classrooms, cafeteria, and other rooms throughout the school.
- Students who go off campus for lunch or other reasons will be expected to sanitize hands upon entrance.
- Students will only be able to use refill stations for water. They will not be able drink directly from the fountains.

### **School District Personnel Expectations**

- Harding County School District personnel will conduct daily well checks and will model good hygiene.
- Harding County School District personnel will create an environment in school that will reduce the spread of germs.
- Harding County School District personnel will educate students on proper health etiquette throughout the year.
- Harding County School District will socially distance students as much as possible throughout the school day.

### **Safety Protocol and procedures by school personnel**

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be allowed in the school building during the day.
- School doors will open at 7:30 am.
- Student Supervision: They will be supervised in the following areas:
  - K-5: recess area on the south side of the elementary building
  - 6-8: Homerooms



- 9-12: Homerooms
  - Students will be socially distanced as much as possible in the classroom.
  - Temperature Checks: We will start the school year with at home well checks but will adjust and change if deemed necessary. Positive cases will influence this decision and at that point, school temperature checks will be implemented. District reserves the right to start temperature checks at any point during the school year.
  - Surfaces that are touched by students will be sanitized daily by school personnel.
  - School transportation will be sanitized by school personnel every time it is used.

#### **OPERATIONS: CLASSROOM SAFETY**

- Seating/desks will be arranged to allow for physical distancing when possible.
- Seating charts will help track virus spread if a student/staff tests positive for COVID-19.
- Keep each child's belongings separated from others.
- Touchless water fountains will be utilized
- Students will not be allowed to share water bottles.
- Recess/Lunch may be alternated to minimize the numbers of students on the playground, require social distancing and disinfect equipment between classes.

#### **OPERATIONS: CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND SANITIZING OF FACILITY**

- A schedule will be established to perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas with EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).
- Cleaning process will be monitored with an accountability system to ensure the cleaning/disinfecting schedule is being followed.
- Procedures will be developed to ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including securely storing and using products away from children, and allowing for adequate ventilation when staff use such products.
- Increase HVAC filter replacement frequency. The district is in process of installing a Global Plasma Solutions Unit to help combat the novel Coronavirus. It works by ionizing the air to capture airborne particles and kill pathogens, including viruses, mold spores, and bacteria. It works within the HVAC system and will accommodate the main K-12 facility.

#### **MASKS/FACE SHIELD**

•At the current time, we will not be mandating a mask/face shields in the facilities during the school day. Students and faculty wishing to wear this protective gear will be allowed. The district has masks available for everyone who wishes to use them.

#### **OPERATIONS: USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES**

- The use of facilities for non-education related activities may be allowed based on availability and current number of active COVID -19 cases. Community members and visitors will NOT be allowed into the classrooms or areas outside of the office during the school day unless it is an emergency. Any parents or community members needing to conduct business with the school can enter through the main doors and wait further instruction.

#### **FOOD SERVICE**

Nutritious meals at school are not simply conveniences, they are critical safety nets to support physical, mental, social, and emotional health and well-being for students. All students should have access to school meals and adequate time to consume them. Meal options will be provided which best meet the nutritional



needs of students in an environment that promotes optimal social distancing and personal hygiene practices as a means of supporting optimal academic success.

- ***Overall Safety Procedures***

- o Employees will follow safe food handling procedures when handling, preparing, or serving food.
  - o Cleaning cafeteria and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- o Hand sanitizer station set up in service line for student to sanitize before and after meals.

- ***Student Seating***

- o Encourage physical distance among students where and when possible.
- o Alternative seating arrangements, staggered lunch times and/or locations may be used to decrease the number of students dining together during each serving session.

### **SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION**

Driver Requirements:

- Normal bus routes
- Masks optional
- Increased cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- Fogging will be utilized twice a week
- Seating charts
- Passengers will apply hand sanitizer upon entry on the bus
- Maximum physical distancing will be used when possible

### **Fever Protocol in School**

Students with COVID-19 symptoms of illness at school will be “ICE-d”:

I – Isolated

C - Contact will be made to parents for immediate pick up

E – Exited as soon as possible

\*\*Each close contact case will be handled upon presentation on a case-by-case basis while using guidance from our local health clinics and SD Department of Health.

### **Positive Covid-19 test**

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified if their student has been in contact with an individual with a positive Covid-19 test.

- Additional information from the DOE/DOH can be located on the starting well website

- <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

- <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/Whatif.pdf>

- <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/MitigationinSchools.pdf>



## Student Covid Positive and Close Contact Resolution (updated November 2021)

### Student Covid Positive and Close Contact Resolution

1. Remote learning for a student(s) that has tested positive for Covid-19 or a member of the student's family tested positive for Covid-19 for two school weeks. Number two does not apply if you have a positive case in your household. (Changes to guidance will be followed).
2. A person is classified as a close contact as defined by DOH guidelines. There are two exceptions:
  - a.) Someone has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19.
  - b.) Someone has had confirmed COVID-19 illness and has recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms (exp. cough, shortness of breath)

Students that have been in close contact (CDC Guidelines/DOH/School) with an individual that has tested positive for Covid-19 will be recommended to do remote learning for 8 school days unless they meet and follow the guidelines below.

- a.) Show evidence of a negative covid test as provided by a medical professional or a quick test provided by the school district.
- b.) Show evidence of antibodies on an antibodies test provided by a medical professional.

If students do not meet or choose not to follow the guidelines above, they must monitor their temperature and do a wellness check three times a day for 8 days. Students are able to come back to school after 5 days if they so choose but they must agree to wellness checks at school when they arrive at school, at lunch, and anytime they are asked. It is also recommended that they wear a mask.

*\*\*\*District will follow updated guidelines regarding staff / students being vaccinated, a previous positive COVID cases, etc.*

### Phases for Instruction

Administration and the Harding County Board of Education will use data from local hospitals, county health personnel, South Dakota Department of Health, and South Dakota Department of Education to decide the education phase for the Harding County School District. Please note that this process is an ongoing process throughout the school year.

**Phase one**- Traditional learning with safety procedures in place while preparing parents and students for possible remote learning.

- Students will have access to Microsoft Teams, DOJO, etc. and all apps the district utilizes. All student K-12 have iPad, laptops, or Microsoft Surfaces.
- Online Instruction utilizing this platform will begin with students immediately, so they are capable of logging in and accessing the platforms.



- Activities within the school day may be modified (i.e. recess, lunch, etc.)

**Phase two-** Isolated cases in school building. Remote learning for a student(s) that has tested positive for Covid-19 or a member of the student's family tested positive for Covid-19. Students that have been determined to be in close contact with a student that tested positive for Covid-19 will have to do remote learning unless they meet DOH rules/regulations and qualify to attend in person. Rooms that have had positive case of Communicable Diseases will be blocked off and thoroughly cleaned afterwards due to DOH recommendations.

**Phase three-** Phase three- Substantial cases in school building. Remote learning for all students due to multiple positive Covid-19 cases. If the school returns to Phase 1 or 2, students determined in the DOH exclusion period will continue to do remote learning until they provide medical documentation to return to school.

### **Remote Learning Expectation**

- Student attendance times are suggested from 8:00am-3:30pm.
- If the student is sick the parent will contact the school.
- Teachers will have instruction and assessment daily.
- Students will communicate with the teacher.
- Teachers will be available via online platforms and K12 email.
- A home Distance Learning schedule will be provided for students and teachers to follow.
- Using this model, teachers will be available during the regular school days hours to deliver instruction, provide feedback, and monitor progress. Monday through Thursday will be instructional days.
- Quality completion of work assigned will be required for final grades and course credit.

\*\*High School students taking Dual Credit or eLearning courses will continue to follow the same schedules and timelines as their post-secondary institutions.

### **TITLE and ELL (English Language Learners)**

All students who are eligible for Title and/or ELL services will continue to receive services in Phases I & II.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN**

#### **PHASE 1: BACK TO NORMAL**

- Online instruction utilizing the district's platforms will be implemented immediately so students are capable of logging into Microsoft Teams (exp.) and accessing the learning tools and programs they will need should school transition to virtual delivery format. This online instruction will occur in both the resource room and general educational settings.

#### **PHASE 2: DISTANCE LEARNING**

- Special Education Staff, related service providers and general education teachers will continue to provide services, accommodations, and modifications as required by each IEP.
- During Distance Learning, members of IEP team will:
  - Ensure compliance with IDEA.



- Provide access, accommodations, and services virtually/remotely.
- Focus on equity for our most vulnerable students.
- Maintain connections between school staff, students, and families.
- Provide a sense of structure, routine, and predictability.

**IEP TEAM MEETINGS**

- In circumstances where IEP team meetings may need to be convened during the school closure or when IEP teams are not able to meet in person due to health and safety considerations, IEP team meetings will be conducted by telephone or virtually.

**Essential Employee Resolution**

The Harding County School District deems all the school employees to be critical infrastructure employees. This means that if a school employee is a contact of an individual that tests positive for Covid-19 they can come to work. If the employee chooses to come to work as a contact, they are recommended to wear a mask for 10 days and do a temperature and wellness check on themselves three times a day. If a close contact chooses not to come back after the 10 days, they must use their own sick leave.

*NOTE: This is a living document that is subject to change based on the Covid-19 pandemic to the region and the state. The Harding County Board of Education along with administration, South Dakota Department of Health, and the South Dakota Department of Education will work together to adapt this document throughout the school year.*

**STUDENT SYMPTOM SCREENING CHECKLIST**

Parents must complete a daily symptom screening check by answering these questions before sending their child to school.



|                                                                                                             |           |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19? | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Does your child have chills or a fever of 100.4 or greater?                                                 | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Does your child have new or worsening cough?                                                                | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Does your child have shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?                                           | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Is your child experiencing fatigue?                                                                         | _____ YES | _____ NO |





|                                                                                           |           |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Does your child have unexplained muscle or body aches?                                    | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Does your child have a headache (not related to a known health condition i.e. migraines)? | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?                                        | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Does your child have a sore throat?                                                       | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Has your child been experiencing nausea or vomiting?                                      | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| Does your child have diarrhea?                                                            | _____ YES | _____ NO |

\*Based on CDC guidelines from 5-13-20

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | If <b>YES</b> to <b>ANY</b> of the questions <b>DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL</b> . Please seek guidance from your medical provider. Contact your school to inform them of your child's symptoms. You may also contact the South Dakota Department of Health at 1-800-592-1861 with questions. |
|  | If <b>NO</b> to <b>ALL</b> questions go to school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |