

SAFE RETURN TO INSTRUCTION

2023-2024



Table of Contents

Background, Goals, Authority, Approval Dates..... 2-3

Contact Information and Responding to Internal COVID-19 Spread3

When to Exclude Due to COVID-194

Returning to Work or School4

Health Screening.....5

PPE and Hygiene6

Cleaning and Air Quality6

Transportation7

Food Service7

Social Emotional Learning.....7

Special Education..... 7-8

Student Services 8-9

Academics.....9

BACKGROUND

A. Purpose

This document serves as guidance to parents, students, and staff through the 2023-2024 school year. All protocols are subject to change.

B. Goals

- Educate students on-campus in an optimal learning environment.
- Minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- Maintain essential school services.
- Minimize social disruption for families and staff.
- Minimize economic losses for families and staff.
- Address student social emotional learning.

C. Authority

The Lennox School District will implement this plan under authority of the School Board, South Dakota Codified Laws, the South Dakota Department of Education, and the South Dakota Department of Health.

APPROVAL DATE REQUIREMENTS

Districts must seek public input on whether to revise Safe Return plans a minimum of every six months. If, after public comment, the district determines no revision is necessary, including in response to revised CDC guidance and/or local conditions, the district must note the date of review separate from the date of school board plan approval. Safe Return plans must be posted no later than Aug. 20, 2021, and reviewed no less frequently than the schedule below.

The South Dakota Department of Education will collect assurances from superintendents that Safe Return plans have been reviewed at these points during the school year:

- December 2021 (in conjunction with December Child Count)
- June 2022 (in conjunction with Year-End Sign-off)
- December 2022 (in conjunction with December Child Count)
- June 2023 (in conjunction with Year-End Sign-off)

DATES OF REVIEW AND ADOPTION

- Reviewed on July 12, 2021
- Adopted August 09, 2021
- Reviewed on September 13, 2021
- Adopted Revised Plan on September 13, 2021
- Reviewed on November 08, 2021
- Adopted Revised Plan on November 08, 2021
- Reviewed on January 10, 2022
- Adopted Revised Plan on January 10, 2022
- Reviewed on May 09, 2022, NO CHANGES MADE
- Reviewed on July 11, 2022
- Adopted Revised Plan on August 08, 2022

DATES OF REVIEW AND ADOPTION

- Reviewed on December 12, 2022
- Reviewed on May 08, 2023
- Adopted Revised Plan on June 12, 2023
- Reviewed on August 14, 2023
- Adopted Revised Plan on August 14, 2023
- Reviewed on April 08, 2024
- Adopted on April 08, 2024

CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS

You may contact the following people with any questions or requests for accessibility to this plan:

- Chad Conaway, Superintendent: 605-647-2203 or chad.conaway@k12.sd.us
- Renee Johnson, Head School Nurse: 605-647-2203 or renee.johnson@k12.sd.us

RESPONDING TO INTERNAL COVID-19 SPREAD

Despite mitigation efforts; we will likely encounter COVID-19 cases within our school system. The following serves as a guide for responding to these cases.

Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- Symptomatic staff and students in the building will need to go to an established isolated room for evaluation by the school nurse (Symptomatic students or staff will be directed to wear a mask until evaluation is completed).
- The school nurse will determine if follow up care or testing is necessary with consultation with the parent and/or guardian when applicable.
 - The school nurse will consider: symptoms; reflect on current COVID-19 trends in the classroom/building and county; and reflect on symptomatic individuals likely exposure to a positive COVID-19 case
- If it is determined that a symptomatic individual needs further care or needs tested for COVID-19, a school official will contact the parent and/or guardian. The parent and/or guardian should contact their doctor for follow up care. If the physician does not recommend a COVID-19 test, the school district will accept a doctor's note which indicates when the student is safe to return to school (A positive COVID-19 test will require the individual to isolate until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, AND overall symptoms are improving.

WHEN TO EXCLUDE DUE TO COVID-19 (GUIDANCE)

Symptoms

- Temperature 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Other symptoms: loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or problems breathing, chills, muscle pain, runny nose, feeling nauseous, poor appetite

Close Contact/ Potential Exposure

- Identified as a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case

RED Symptom Alone = Exclude until 24 hours after fever resolves

BLUE Symptom Alone = Exclusion for COVID-19 not necessary. Follow existing school policy

GREEN exposure + RED or BLUE Symptom = Exclude until test result is negative or a doctor's note is obtained which identifies when the student is safe to return to school. If untested or a doctor's note is not obtained, student/staff will be excluded ~~for at least 5 days since symptom onset (and 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved)~~ until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, AND overall symptoms are improving.

RETURNING TO WORK OR SCHOOL (District Policy)

Tested positive for COVID-19

Students and staff may return to school/work if: They have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND overall symptoms are improving.

HEALTH SCREENING

Parents are responsible for monitoring their children's wellbeing at home. If your child has a known COVID-19 exposure and displays any of the symptoms below, please get them tested for COVID-19 and obtain a negative test result or doctor's note before sending them to school. No student with a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater is permitted to come into a school building until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

SYMPTOMS TO LOOK FOR



Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher



Sore throat



New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing



Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain



New onset of severe headache, especially with fever

Other Symptoms Include:

- loss of taste or smell
- shortness of breath or problems breathing
- chills
- muscle pain
- runny nose
- feeling nauseous
- poor appetite

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND HYGIENE MEASURES

- If using a mask voluntarily or required to wear a mask, the face covering must cover the nose and mouth completely. The covering should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear.
- Any mask that incorporates a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are not sufficient face coverings because they allow droplets to be released from the mask.
- Gloves are required for Food and Nutrition Service workers at all times and other staff whenever cleaning or sanitizing an item or surface.
- Consistent scheduled times and procedures will be established throughout the day to promote:
 - Hand washing
 - To prevent the spread of germs during the COVID-19 pandemic, you should also wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands BEFORE and AFTER:
 - Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
 - Touching your mask
 - Entering and leaving a public place
 - Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens
 - Covering coughs and sneezes
 - Not sharing personal belongings
- Healthy hygiene behaviors will be supported by the school district by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and disinfectant wipes. Social distancing will be followed when practical.
- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended by the CDC for anyone who is 6 months of age or older. Lennox School District recommends you visit with your doctor to determine the best course of action for you. The following is a link to additional information from the CDC regarding the COVID-19 vaccine: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/your-vaccination.html>

CLEANING AND AIR QUALITY

A stringent cleaning schedule will be used as recommended by the CDC. The district has purchased an abundant supply of disinfectant designed to kill coronaviruses and other infectious diseases. In addition to other direct cleaning practices, an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer will be used in all classrooms and hallways as needed.

TRANSPORTATION

We will utilize the following practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on district transportation.

- Using an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer, all transportation vehicles will be disinfected prior to each route as needed.
- Mask use will be optional
- When appropriate, ventilation will be improved by opening windows or opening top vents on buses to improve air circulation.

FOOD SERVICE

Administration will make decisions as to what is the best way for Food Service to continue feeding students a healthy meal based on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) polices and waivers as they are released or extended based on the present situation.

- Food Service staff are trained to follow food safety according to the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) every year. This includes personal hygiene procedures, hand washing, glove usage and proper sanitizing. Due to COVID-19 some Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) have been updated.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as students come in the serving area.
- After each lunch line: Tables, tray guards, handles on cooler doors, and condiment pumps will be washed/wiped down with bleach.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which youth and adults identify and regulate emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain meaningful relationships, and make responsible decisions. SEL provides a teaching and learning process where youth and adults develop the necessary skills and attitudes that helps them to engage in learning more successfully, build supportive relationships, engage civically, and have a positive mental health. Thus, SEL provides a foundation for all students to thrive, where some students and staff may need additional support to achieve positive mental health; the district has obtained additional support services through the Carroll Institute that are available to all children and staff. Please reach out to your supervisor, students building principal and/or school counselor for additional information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Lennox Special Education Department is committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible in alignment with the Department of Health, State of South Dakota, and guidance from the South Dakota Department of Education.

Collaboration with families will continue to be an integral part of the special education process. To address the individual needs of each student, with a disability, special education staff will continue to work with families to identify essential services that can be provided both directly and indirectly when on the school campus and/or when in a distance learning environment. Learning environments will be selected by the Lennox School District and/or state and learning environments may fluctuate throughout the school year. Through collaboration with families, Individual Education Plans (IEP) may be adjusted, as needed, for the circumstances of the learning environment based on students' needs and services. Staff will continue to work diligently in setting detailed plans for the delivery of special education services.

Our Mission: To work together to inspire lifelong learners who innovate, persevere, and collaborate to solve the challenges of tomorrow.

Child Find and Evaluations:

The Lennox School District will continue to identify, locate, and evaluate students suspected of having a disability. The district will also continue to use the Student Assistance Team (SAT) to aid in identifying students and determining if more interventions are needed and/or if the student should be referred to special education for an evaluation. The Lennox School District is also mindful that some students may have been displaced from their typical learning environment when initiating the referral process. Some evaluations can be completed through remote platforms. Each initial evaluation and reevaluation will be determined on a case-by-case basis due to the possible concerns with validity in completing evaluations from a remote platform. The Lennox School District will consider and/or follow recommendations from the Department of Health, the state, and SD DOE when conducting evaluations to ensure safety of the students and staff.

Individual Education Plans/ IEP Meetings:

The Lennox School District is committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Special education staff will continue to collaborate with families throughout the school year, along with providing progress reports on IEP goals identified in the IEP. The Lennox School District may have meetings in-person or an alternative format, such as videoconferencing or by phone. Special Education staff will collaborate with families to determine the safest format that ensures parents are full participants in the meeting.

STUDENT SERVICES

English Learners (EL):

Students will continue to be identified through the Home Language Survey and state requirements. The EL teacher will be in communication with families and teachers to determine services as well as developing and meeting the requirements of the Language Acquisition Plan (LAP). General classroom teachers will continue to support EL students when learning is happening on-campus or in rare circumstances, via distance learning. General classroom teachers will continue to collaborate with families, the student, and the EL teacher along with following the LAP in all environments. The district will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the state for all assessments and requirements of EL services. The Lennox School Interpreters and information in the home language will be essential in helping families.

Title III: DOE English Language <https://doe.sd.gov/title/el.aspx>

Section 504:

General education teachers will continue to collaborate with the student, parents, principal, and nurse (if applicable) in determining the appropriateness and success of a student's accommodations documented in the 504. The 504 team will need to review the accommodations to make sure they meet the needs of the student when in any learning environment. The 504 team will continue to work collaboratively to identify alternative solutions if the accommodations do not seem to be appropriate or successful in a particular setting.

Section 504 DOE: <https://doe.sd.gov/sped/section504.aspx>

Homeless:

The Lennox School District will continue to work together to identify students experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines "homeless children and youths" as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." Circumstances of homelessness vary between each family and student. Information will be gathered from the family and/or youth, and the Lennox School District will

analyze information to make an appropriate determination of eligibility that follows the recommended guidelines provided by the SD DOE.

Homeless DOE: <https://doe.sd.gov/title/McKinneyVento.aspx>

Migrant:

The Lennox School District will continue to work to identify students who may meet migrant criteria. Students may be considered migrant based on moving and working conditions of the family (i.e. migratory agriculture worker, migratory fisher). The Lennox School District will conduct an interview with the parent/guardian to gather information and then review and follow the guidelines recommended by the SD DOE in deciding eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

Migrant DOE: <https://doe.sd.gov/title/partC.aspx>

ACADEMICS

All students will receive instruction on campus by a highly qualified teacher. There will be no option for distance learning during the 2023-2024 school year. Rare exceptions to this may include: temporary closure due to a state ordinance; temporary closure due to reduced staffing levels caused by mass COVID-19 spread; or a decision made by an IEP team. Should the school district be forced to temporarily close a school due to COVID-19, Microsoft Teams will be utilized for delivery of remote instruction. The school district will issue a laptop to every student and address internet connectivity issues on a case-by-case basis. Staff will also utilize Zoom to check in on students individually regarding their academic and SEL needs are being met.