

# **EDMUNDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN**

**Edmunds Central School District #22-5**

**105 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE**

**Roscoe, SD 57471**

**<https://echs.k12.sd.us/>**

**Initial Approval by the Edmunds Central School Board**

**August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Most Recent Date of Review by the Edmunds Central School Board**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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## ***A Safe Return to In-Person Instruction***

The Edmunds Central Board of Education and Administration would like to personally thank all staff members, students, and parents for the dedication and efforts put forth over the course of the past two years. Everyone has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have access to the highest level of education despite the existence of a global pandemic. The district is appreciative of everyone's flexibility and patience. It is possible that there will be some uncertainty regarding what lies ahead this school year concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, but the district's plan is to continue to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2022-2023 school year.

### **General Information (Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan)**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP Act requires each school district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the school district's website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction, and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). The ARP Act further requires that the district seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. A school district must periodically, but not less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

***Please Note:** The Edmunds Central School District plans to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2022-2023 school year unless circumstances dictate otherwise. The information below outlines guidelines, practices, and protocols that are currently in place and/or will be recommended throughout the 2022-23 school year. Additional practices and protocols may be implemented, as needed, should circumstances deem such action necessary.*

### **Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks**

The Edmunds Central School District will not require that students and/or employees wear a face mask at any of its educational facilities or its school buses. The use of face coverings by students and staff on school buses and within school facilities remains a recommendation of state and federal public health officials; therefore, individuals may voluntarily elect to wear a face mask within school facilities or on school buses. The district will provide face masks upon request.

If there is a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to implement Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks, or if there is a substantial COVID outbreak, the district may look to implement said safety protocols, as needed, for a short or limited timeframe. In such situations, the district will utilize CDC, SD DOH, and local healthcare resources to educate stakeholders regarding the Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks.

## **Considerations to Stakeholder Safety and Well-Being**

The safety of our students and staff is a priority. Upon reopening in August, our schools will have been cleaned and disinfected. Below, one will find safety procedures that are in place for daily practices/building practices, facility and maintenance, and transportation. Additional supports and practices may be implemented, as needed, throughout the school year.

### **Daily Practices/Building Practices**

To assist our District in promoting the safety and well-being of all, we will encourage the following practices:

- Parents/guardians should monitor the health of their child(ren). Sick students should not be sent to school.
- Teach and encourage proper handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes.
- Determine scheduled handwashing times for elementary students.
- Promote other healthy hygiene practices.
- Water fountains will be available to students; however, students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottle and use the available bottle fill stations.
- Face coverings/masks may be worn if an individual student or staff member chooses to do so (e.g., individuals choosing to wear a mask/facial covering should do so correctly as outlined by CDC guidelines).
- Encourage students to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- To the extent possible, limit student sharing of materials—avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
- The sharing of snacks, treats, and drinks is discouraged.
- To the extent possible, promote physical distancing.
- To the extent possible within the normal operations of a school, allow minimal mixing between groups.
- To the extent possible, space seating/desks to maximize space.
- To the extent possible, turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) or have students sit on only one side of tables.

### **Facility and Maintenance**

To assist our District in promoting the safety and well-being of all, we will encourage the following practices:

- Full and deep summer cleaning will have been completed—cleaning all furniture, fixtures, walls, extracting carpets, waxing floors, etc.
- HVAC—Ensure multiple air exchanges prior to the scheduled staff arrival and activity start times. Establish modes of operation earlier so adequate temperatures are achieved and building is pre-flushed.
- Operate HVAC systems during all scheduled student/staff activities to ensure air exchanges have occurred in occupied areas.
- Change air filters before the start of the school year (July/August) and then change again in the fall, winter, and spring.
- EPA approved products will be used for cleaning.
- Handwashing and hygiene signage will be posted throughout the school building.

- Custodians will disinfect frequently touched surfaces on a consistent basis.

### Transportation

To assist our District in promoting the safety and well-being of all, we will encourage the following practices:

- Bus drivers be properly equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should they wish to use it.
- Bus drivers be trained on proper cleaning procedures and effectively maintain a high level of cleanliness on each bus.
- Bus windows will be opened when possible to facilitate the circulation of fresh air.
- One student per seat when possible.
- Siblings from the same family may sit together.
- Movement in a school bus is restricted—please do not switch seats.

### COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts

When staff, parents, and/or the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH) notify the school of a positive COVID-19 case (e.g., staff member or student), the Edmunds Central School District will provide notifications of the positive case to the appropriate families/parents. The notifications may include, but are not limited to, the following information:

- Identification of the building (Elementary or MS/HS) with the positive COVID-19 case,
  - The Edmunds Central School District will maintain the highest level of confidentiality as a part of the notification process and will not provide any notification that includes individually identifiable information.
- Request for parents and staff to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, and
- Request for symptomatic individuals to stay home.

### Contact Tracing

The Edmunds Central School District will NOT conduct contact tracing to determine potential exposure that occurred within the school building and/or as a result of school activities or services. All contact tracing and close contact designations related to positive cases of COVID-19 will need to be identified by the SD DOH, this includes cases of COVID-19 that originate both in and outside of the Edmunds Central School.

### Close Contacts

Students and/or staff members identified as a close contact to a known positive COVID-19 case will be encouraged to follow all CDC and SD DOH guidelines and timelines pertaining to the recommended quarantine period. Students and/or staff members identified by the SD DOH as a close contact to a known COVID-19 case will not be excluded from school so long as they do not exhibit any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

The Edmunds Central staff have been designated as critical infrastructure employees by the school board. As such, staff members that have been potentially exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 may not be required to quarantine and may continue to attend school under the

guidelines set forth for critical infrastructure employees. These situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **COVID-19 Positive Individuals**

A student or staff member that has tested positive for COVID-19 will temporarily be excluded from the school setting according to CDC/DOH guidelines or written directives provided by a physician. These same provisions shall govern “Return to Play” for students participating in school-sponsored activities.

### **Diagnostic & Screening Testing**

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Edmunds Central School District opted-in to diagnostic testing (e.g., on-site testing of symptomatic individuals via a Rapid test) and opted-out of screening testing (e.g., on-site sentinel asymptomatic testing offered by the SD DOH). During the 2022-2023 school year, the Edmunds Central School District will opt-out of both asymptomatic screening testing offered by the SD DOH and symptomatic on-site Rapid testing (e.g., BinaxNow by Abbott) offered by the SD DOH. Individuals who need a COVID-19 test will need to contact their primary care provider for additional information.

The Edmunds Central School District will continue to provide guidance to parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, a process which all parties should complete prior to entering the campus/building. The District will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. The District will continue to assist students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day.

The school will establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes. Students who present COVID-19 symptoms will immediately be isolated to the designated space until arrangements can be made for them to be picked up or leave the building.

### **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities**

The Edmunds Central School District will continue to work with local and regional health officials regarding vaccination opportunities for district stakeholders.

### **Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

Students qualifying for extra support through an IEP or through a 504 plan will continue to receive services and support according to their plans throughout the school year.

When circumstances require specific policies or practices designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

### **Coordination with State & Local Health Officials**

The superintendent will consult, as needed, with state and local health officials.

### **Continuity of Services**

The district has invested in various technology devices, applications, and programs for students and provided teachers with remote-learning training to ensure continuity of instruction will still occur should in-person learning not be possible due to a COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, students will continue to be provided accommodations as stated in their IEP or 504 plans during remote learning. Parent input will be sought to develop a plan for the provision of remote IEP services and student progress will be reviewed by the student's team when in-person learning resumes.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, regular communication, using all available modalities, with students will be required of administrators and teachers to ensure the safety, academic engagement, and wellness of students. If in-person instruction is not possible, lunch may be provided to students through a USDA approved system. Counselors and mental health support staff will be available for any students or staff in need of assistance.

### **Disclaimer**

**This plan is subject to change based upon the conditions present in the Roscoe and Hosmer communities (as well as surrounding communities) and information provided by the SD DOH and/or CDC. Furthermore, any adjustments or adaptations to this plan will be based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of the Edmunds Central School District and will require the approval of the Edmunds Central School Board.**

- Edmunds Central District stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide input regarding this plan at the regular meeting of the Edmunds Central School Board on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- This plan was adopted by the Edmunds Central School District by way of official action taken by the Edmunds Central Board of Education at its regular monthly meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- This plan was reviewed by the Edmunds Central School Board on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- This plan was revised by the Edmunds Central School Board on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- This plan was reviewed by the Edmunds Central School Board on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- This plan was revised by the Edmunds Central School Board on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- This plan was reviewed by the Edmunds Central School Board on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- This plan was reviewed by the Edmunds Central School Board on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- This plan was reviewed by the Edmunds Central School Board on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- This plan is currently available on the Edmunds Central School District website ([echs.k12.sd.us](https://echs.k12.sd.us)).

- A Spanish translation of this plan is available on the Edmunds Central School District website (<http://www.echs.k12.sd.us>). Additionally translations of this plan are available upon request. Please contact the Edmunds Central School District at 605-287-4251 for more information.
- Individuals with accessibility issues, or those experiencing disabilities that limit their ability to access this plan via the school district website, may request a copy of this plan by contacting the Edmunds Central School District administration office at 605-287-4251.

Any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this plan may be directed to:

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