

**Lead Deadwood School District**  
**Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

**Date of school board plan approval: June 8, 2021**

**Plan review dates: August 27, 2021, August 17, 2021, June 8, 2021, October 12, 2021, June 20, 2022, September 13, 2022, December 13, 2022, December 12, 2023**

**Contact person for questions: Dr. Erik Person**

**The Lead-Deadwood School District's approach to health-related concerns in the fall of 2022 is based on the following principles:**

1. The goal of the reentry plan is to lessen the spread of illness, not to eliminate it nor to reduce the risk of transmission to zero. The hope is to keep the spread to a minimum, while protecting those children and adults who are most vulnerable.
2. The most effective methods to lessen the spread of illness are through physical distancing, personal hygiene (hand washing, sanitizers, bathroom protocol), the optional use of face coverings or masks, and having folks stay home when they are sick.
3. All decisions must be made by the administrative team in consultation with the school board and be based on current circumstances in our local community. All decisions about implementing school-based strategies (e.g., dismissals, event cancellations, other social distancing measures) should be made locally, in collaboration with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community.
4. Students, staff, and community members who are considered vulnerable must not be put in a compromising situation and case by case decisions will be made regarding students and/or staff who are unable to attend the face to face school setting.
5. Learning and teaching from home remains an option if the district determines that circumstances warrant a move back in that direction, and the remote learning experience must be educationally effective, user friendly, and engaging.

Depending on circumstances at the time in our community, we need to be prepared to implement either of the following, depending on the situation: a back to normal plan or a remote learning plan. We need to be prepared to be able to switch back and forth, and we need to be able to transition quickly.

1. **Back to Normal Model**—~~Go back to~~ Instruction will be delivered how things were before the school closure, albeit with social distancing as necessary, enhanced cleaning, and a variety of other changes to address the possible negative effects of the health situation as needed. Keeping all students in school on a regular basis is our top priority.
2. **Remote Learning Model**—Recreate, enhance, and implement the remote learning experience we had during the 2020-2021 school year, with the intent of being prepared to go back to fulltime online learning for everyone if needed.

## Back to Normal Model

The goal of the back to normal reentry plan is to lessen the spread of illness, not to eliminate it nor to reduce the risk of transmission to zero. The hope is to keep the spread to a minimum, while protecting those children and adults who are most vulnerable. This goal must be coupled with the recognition that most students need to be back in the face-to-face setting as much as possible to thrive, albeit in a safe manner. Therefore, with the goal to limit the spread of illness, and the recognition that the most effective methods to lessen the spread of illness, is through physical distancing, personal hygiene (hand washing, sanitizers, bathroom protocol), the optional use of face coverings or masks, and having folks stay home when they are sick, the initial start of school back to normal plan will be coupled with the following practices.

1. All classrooms will be laid out to maximize distancing. Plexi-glass dividers may be added in some classrooms.
2. Signage on how to stop the spread of illness, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures including optional face coverings and respiratory etiquette, will be on display in buildings. Consistent scheduled times and procedures will be established throughout the day for hand hygiene, promoting hand washing. Buildings and rooms and common areas will be cleaned daily.
3. The district will not be participating in the State of South Dakota's BinaxNOW or Quidel QuickVue testing.
4. The School District will continue to provide meal service to students to the extent possible. Therefore, the meal service program may be a combination of in-school serving and a "grab & go" program. If meals are served onsite, there may be additional lunch periods added to accommodate smaller groups and/or breakfast and lunch may be served in classrooms.
5. Gloves are required for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) workers at all times and other staff whenever cleaning or sanitizing an item or surface.
6. Plexi-glass will be utilized at office counters.
7. Activities will follow the guidelines set forth by the SDHSAA.
8. If necessary, individual belongings will be separated by child, including water bottles, art supplies, computers, books, etc.
9. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including face coverings, hand sanitizer, and gloves will be provided to schools on a continual basis throughout the school year, beginning in September.
10. Additional PPE and accommodations (e.g. plexiglass, sneeze guards) will be provided for staff and students who are in a higher health risk category.
11. All staff and students are asked to not attend school when experiencing symptoms.
12. ~~The school district will follow CDC guidelines in the event that measures pertaining to self-isolation and quarantining are necessary.~~ District response and directives pertaining to self-isolation and quarantine will be based upon the latest information available from the CDC.
13. Public Health officials will assist the Lead-Deadwood School District leadership team to determine a course of action for their individual schools on a case-by-case basis. Public Health officials indicate this may include the closure of school for all students and most staff for a short-term period.

14. Consider increasing the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and/or doors as long as it does not pose a safety or health risk to other students.
15. Opportunities to familiarize students, families, and staff with these protocols will be offered prior to school starting.
16. New Staff will be trained in Microsoft 365/Teams. All new teachers are encouraged to take the state training.
17. New Students will have laptop orientation, which includes training of Microsoft 365/Teams.
18. Staff have been notified that vaccinations are available locally through Monument Health.
19. Students in academic needs are being met through after school tutoring made available with certified teaching staff.
20. In reacting to positive COVID cases, the district's response is based upon the latest CDC recommendations, including the following:
  - a. recommending home testing for COVID 19 for symptomatic students and staff
  - b. positive COVID cases will be asked to isolate and stay home for 5 days
  - c. if students or staff members are symptom free after 5 days, they may return to school, providing that they wear a face mask for an additional 5 days
  - d. no contact tracing or requirement to quarantine for close contacts

Because students, staff, and community members who are considered vulnerable must not be put in a compromising situation, case by case decisions will be made regarding students and/or staff who choose not to or are unable to attend in the back to normal model. In these instances, accommodations will be made based on the circumstances of the particular case. Learning and teaching from home must remain an option for all students, families, and staff, regardless of the dominant model in effect.

### **Remote Learning Model**

In the event of positive cases within the school setting or in the event of community surge, decisions will be made on how to proceed in conjunction with local health officials. It may be determined at that time to transition to a full-time remote learning model.

Remote learning provides an opportunity for students and teachers to remain connected and engaged with the content while working from their homes. Transitioning to remote learning can keep students on track until they return to in-person learning environments. Remote learning is different from virtual learning programs such as APEX or Acellus, typically used for credit recovery or acceleration. We will only return to the remote learning experience when extreme situations that pose a threat to student and staff safety occur.

To better serve students, families, and staff, in the remote learning environment, the Lead-Deadwood School District adopted an online learning platform that will serve as a centralized location for all K-12 students and parents. This platform will be utilized starting at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The platform will be utilized during normal school operation to continually increase student knowledge and to ensure staff and students are equipped to move to remote online instruction, if necessary, at any time. The goal was to adopt a centralized, user

friendly and cost-effective online learning platform. This will be done by utilizing Microsoft 365 as the district wide online learning platform, with a focus on Microsoft Teams.

The Technology Department will configure Microsoft 365/Teams on all '1 to 1' devices during the summer imaging for each student/staff for easy access. Microsoft Teams provides a single location for notes, instruction, assignments, team members, conversations, and meetings. Simplifying communication and organization by using a centralized contact list and collaboration location for each class. Teams has an integrated online meeting solution which will allow teachers to schedule online virtual meetings with their students directly from their Team. Each teacher will create a Team for each class/section they teach and invite the students into the Team. Staff members can create Teams for committees, grade level or building level collaboration. All new staff members have the opportunity to receive a minimum of ten hours of virtual instruction on how to operate Teams. New students and parents may attend laptop orientation classes for a Microsoft 365/Teams introduction.

## **Communication**

Major announcements and day-to-day messaging for the community (families, students, employees, community members, media, elected officials, and others) will include:

- Phone calls, emails and texts via the Thrillshare broadcast platform
- Social media
- Microsoft Teams
- District Website
- District YouTube Channel

Content will include high-value topics: school schedules, curriculum resources, student expectations, tech support, meal distribution, mental health, special education, FAQs, activities, and community resources.

## **Special Education and English Language Learners**

We are committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities and English Language Learners, to the greatest extent possible in alignment with public health guidelines. Collaboration with families has always been an integral part of the special education process and continues to be essential during this time. To address the unique needs of students with disabilities, special education providers will continue the work with families to collaboratively identify the most essential services for each student that can be provided both directly and indirectly in remote and in-person learning environments. Service plans will be adjusted as needed for the circumstances of the learning environment. We recognize that each student will have an individual plan based on the learning model selected by the district.

## **Expectations**

We recognize the distinct differences and in some cases diminished effectiveness of services in the remote learning model. Consequently, we are dedicated to continuing to improve our approach and strategies to support students.

1. We will convey the importance of student engagement during remote learning so students and families can better understand academic expectations and ways to support student success.
2. We will provide guidance regarding consistent learning experiences across classrooms and limiting the time spent in teacher instruction and independent student work time and “homework.”
3. We will support educators’ fall planning and instructional needs with professional learning.
4. We will identify anticipated student learning gaps ~~and utilize strategies to~~ address them.
5. We will assess student work with the goal of assessing student learning without unduly negatively impacting the final grades of students.
6. We will prioritize foundational literacy and math skills for our youngest learners.
7. We will meet individual student needs through differentiated learning
8. We will support student learning interests and needs to ensure career and college readiness for middle and high school levels aligned to South Dakota graduation requirements.
9. We will support our educators to meet student needs through professional learning opportunities.
10. We will incorporate ongoing professional learning on tools to meet the needs of students in each model.
11. We will provide additional support for our newest educators to ensure they meet the needs of students.
12. We will provide individualized support for educators.