

---

# EMERADO PUBLIC SCHOOL Return to In- Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Restart Plan

Emerado School Board Approved  
June 14, 2021

# Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

This plan describes how Emerado Public School will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other district staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. Questions about this plan should be directed to Mr. Mickey Berry at (701) 594-5125.

On July 14, 2020, North Dakota school districts were required to develop a health and safety plan and a distance learning plan for the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These plans required approval by the School Board prior to the start of classes with students. The Emerado Board of Education approved the 2020-2021 Emerado Smart Restart Plan at a Board meeting August 2020. The EPS Smart Restart Plan was based on recommendations and guidelines from city, county, state, and national health organizations, public education agencies, and government officials. Further input and feedback were gathered from staff and parents through online surveys and a series of virtual and in-person sessions.

Based on the successful implementation of mitigation strategies within EPS and the community, along with the wide-spread availability of the COVID-19 vaccination, the threat of COVID-19 was drastically reduced in the spring of 2021. In consultation with Grand Forks Public Health, administration requested the Emerado Board of Education to suspend the 2020-2021 EPS Smart Restart Plan at the June Board Meeting. The support for plan suspension from Grand Forks Public Health came with the understanding that changes in information or data regarding COVID-19 may require revisiting mitigation strategies specific to the plan prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

On June 14, 2021, the Emerado Board of Education approved suspending the EPS Smart Restart Plan effective June 14, 2021. The suspension of the 2020-2021 Smart Restart Plan does not mean the district will completely return to pre-COVID-19 normalcy or that all mitigation strategies outlined in the plan will halt. It means the district may not continue some of the additional mitigation strategies that were specific to COVID-19 and significantly impacted EPS operations or student experiences. As educators, we are always learning and reflective of our past practice. Therefore, if mitigation strategies or changes in District practice can benefit students and staff moving forward without significantly altering the operations of the district, we will continue with those changes.

Emerado Public School Families,

It has been a challenge for our entire community since March 2019, but we hope you have found ways to cope and embrace this new normal. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and community members who have helped us succeed in these difficult times. The 2020-2021 school year was challenging but we are proud of students and thankful the district was able to celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Kindergarten accomplishments in-person.

The challenge now is planning for what school will look like during the 2021-2022 school year. This plan will try to address these challenges, while providing a flexible framework to guide our response over the next school year.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we are compelled to strive to return to an in-person model. Yet, we cannot disregard that the health and safety concerns associated with the virus remain. The district must consider all practical steps to keep our schools from contributing to virus spread in our community. The plan is to return to in-person learning this upcoming August. GF County health has confirmed we are to maintain standard precautions within the Blue/Green level.

This plan presents hundreds of hours of critical thinking, research, modeling, and work by our educators, staff, and school board. This group reviewed input gathered from our employees and parents. A survey for revision purposes will be available shortly. We will begin our school year on **Thursday, August 19.**

We realize that reviewing this plan may not address every question you have. We recognize some concepts and actions may be polarizing, and there are strong opinions about what the school should do or should not. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so we can move forward.

Registration will be determined later through our website [www.emeradok8.com](http://www.emeradok8.com). From what we have reflected on from last school year, we are confident we can prepare for a more convenient and quality education in-person for the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you for your time reviewing this plan. We will be reviewing and revising this plan every 6 months. We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward. Together, our school can provide quality education to our children in a safe manner, if we work together to solve problems.

Respectfully,

Mickey Berry  
Superintendent

Robbie Leake  
School Board President

## Assumptions & Assurances

Emerado Public School believes:

- Every student should have the opportunity to engage in learning, regardless of the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- Schools have a vital role in providing safe environments for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health.
- By working together with educators, staff, health care professionals, parents, students, and community members we can solve most challenges.
- Our district will make decisions based on the most current guidance from local, state, and national health care officials.
- Our School Board will ensure our plan meets the needs of our students, educators, staff and community.

## Our Planning Team

The Emerado School's Return to Learning Plan was crafted and reviewed by a team consisting of the following:

- Educators
- Custodial Staff
- Parents
- Grand Forks County Health
- Secretary
- a School Board member
- Administration

Input was gathered by various means to allow for a wide range of input, while maintaining social distancing.

## COVID-19 Response Team & Coordinators

This organizational structure was crafted to assist in the development and monitoring of the district return to learning plan. This structure identifies leaders and guiding team members that will serve as a voice in how the district responds to COVID-19 during the school year. This plan is designed to address the issues of reopening as well as provide a nimble and responsive process to address issues that may not be recognized today.

### Operations –

- Office Staff
- Custodial Staff
- Transportation Staff
- Food Service
- School Board

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS / COMMUN

- School Board
- Administration
- Teachers/Staff
- Instant Alert
- Website – [www.emeradok8](http://www.emeradok8)
- Social Media (Facebook)

The three components have been identified as key operational teams that consist of multiple departments. Each operational team will work implement the return to learn plan and address challenges as they arise.

## COVID-19 Building Level Coordinators

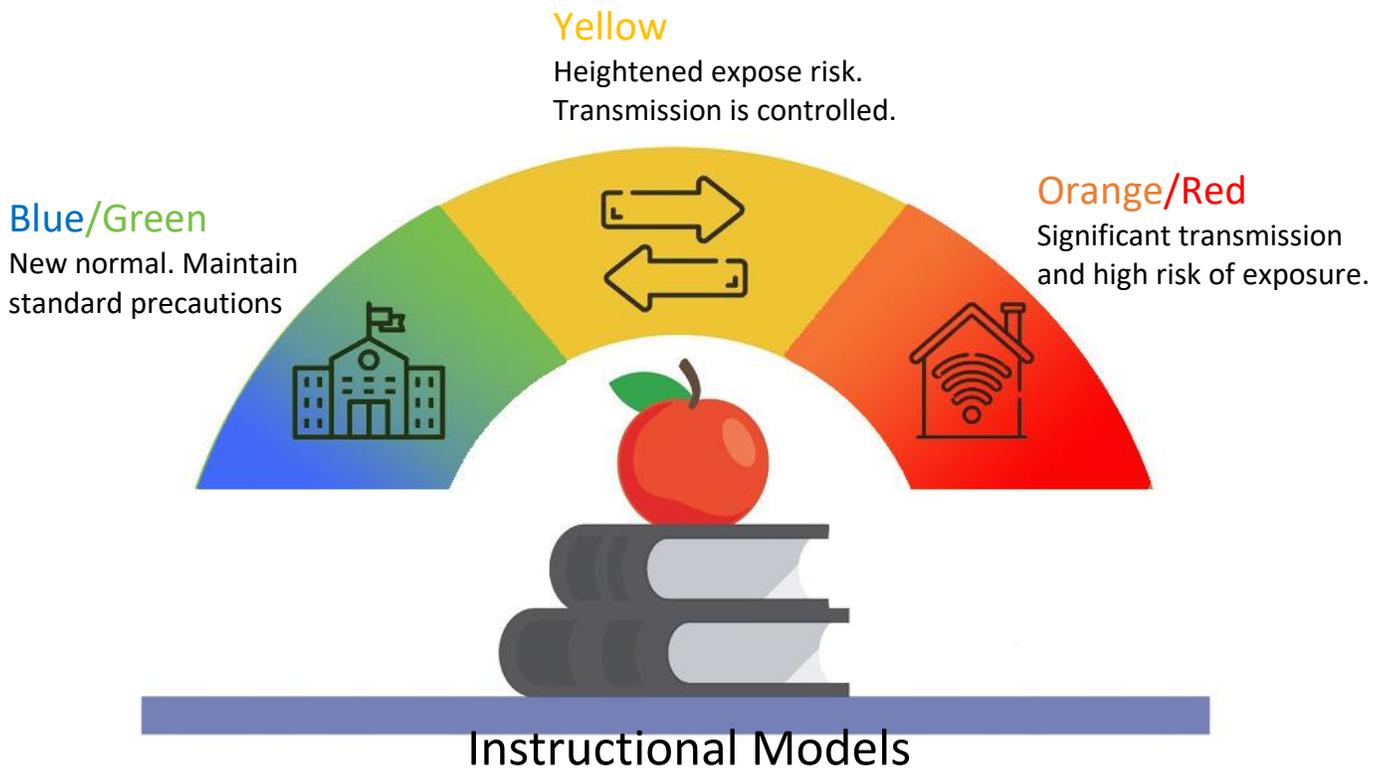
Emerado Public School will have an identified COVID-19 Coordinator who will be responsible for the health and safety preparedness and response planning. Coordinators will make themselves available to the NDDoH 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to respond to phone calls from public health. This position will assist public health in identifying and notifying close contacts in the school setting. The coordinator will be report cases of COVID-19, found in the school setting, to health officials and the State Superintendent's office.



*Superintendent/Principal Mickey Berry* will assume the role of building level coordinator in the Emerado School building. If the coordinator is unable to be reached the secondary contacts will be *Business Manager/Secretary Loree Prosser*.

## Phases

The following phases will be used to define the community risk level associated with COVID-19 These phases align with the color-coded guidance in the ND Smart Restart Plan. Each level is reported to schools by the NDDoH after rigorous testing and assessment of cases in the community. [ND Smart Restart Plan](#)

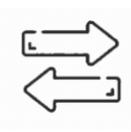


The instructional models used by the Emerado Public School District will be guided, in part, by the risk level of COVID-19 in the community as defined within the phases above. This is a guide as instructional models could be altered based on other factors, such as occupancy levels, age of children, and abilities to move certain classes online.



**Traditional Learning**

All instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule. Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety.



**Blended Learning**

Students report to school on a modified schedule. Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate to meet the educational needs through a variety of delivery models.



**Distance Learning (Zoom+Seesaw)**

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources or suited to the unique needs of the student.

## Health and Safety Guidance

Emerado Public School strives to provide a healthy and safe environment for all who occupy our schools. The following guidelines are intended to provide a framework for the district's response to COVID-19.

## Resources

ND Department of Public Instruction - <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/nddpi-updates-and-guidance-covid-19>

ND Department of Health - <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

## Best Intentions

Despite taking every reasonable precaution, there is not guarantee that our school's will be without risk as it relates to COVID-19. The virus will be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, social distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will lower transmission of COVID-19, but may not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus.

## Protect Yourself and Others

### *Wash your hands often*



- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

### *Avoid close contact*



- Keep social distance from others especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting sick.
- Alternate or modified schedules, adjustments to use of common areas, use of outdoor spaces and other actions that increase physical separation may be considered.
- The sharing of instructional materials should be limited as much as possible.
- Due to the small, confined nature of school buses, it is recommended to always wear face coverings.
- No parents/visitors allowed without face mask use.

### *Cover coughs and sneezes*



- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

### *Clean and disinfect*



- School staff should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Shared materials (not recommended) should be cleaned.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.

*Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.*



- The wearing of masks will be applied in phases based on the phases within the [ND Smart Restart Guidance](#).
- Educators need to teach students how to properly wear a face covering so they are prepared to use them on school buses or other situations in close proximity with others.
  - Resources from NDDPI and MPS will be provided to teachers.
- In specific instances the wearing of a face covering (mask) will be required. These situations are:
  - While riding school transportation.
  - When in close contact with other staff or students.
  - When passing between classes or periods.
  - When in an area where social distances cannot be maintained.
- Administration and staff in consultation with public health officials will determine if face coverings can be omitted in specific instructional situations to meet educational needs of students.

*Monitor your health daily*



- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Use the screening guidance provided (see appendix).
- Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
- Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.
- Symptomatic students will be isolated, and their guardians contacted.
- The wearing of face masks is not required in the Green or Yellow stage. In the Red stage it may be required if determined to be necessary in consultation with local health officials.



**Emerado COVID-19 PPE Guidance**

STAFF	PPE
All staff (other than what is outlined)	<b>Optional</b> to wear cloth face coverings <b>Optional</b> to wear face coverings on school transportation (bus)
All Students	<b>Optional</b> to wear cloth face coverings. <b>Optional</b> to wear face coverings if using school transportation (bus) <b>Optional</b> to wear face coverings if social distances cannot be maintained
Public facing staff (i.e. receptionists/clerical) unless plexiglass partition is in place.	<b>Optional</b> face shield or cloth face mask
Staff caring for / instructing a student in a small space with health conditions– small group – for more than 15 minutes. (i.e. Nurse, SPED, EL, educator)	Building administrators in consultation with district nurse and educator will determine if face coverings or face shield are <b>required</b> . This may be influenced by instructional and learning needs of

	the student and health considerations of all occupants in the room.
All staff	<b>Encouraged</b> to wear a cloth face covering.
All Students	<b>Encouraged</b> to wear a face mask. Students will be provided breaks and allowed to remove their mask when outside or in spaces that can accommodate social distancing.
<i>All staff and students in school bus</i>	<b>Encouraged to wear a face covering</b>

# Health & Safety Protocols

## Student & Staff Health

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. Emerado Public School will take the following measures to ensure all students and staff are healthy while they are at school.

### *Identifying Students & Staff at Higher Risk*

- Back to School and registration processes will include questions asking families to identify if their child is at-risk, based on a health professionals’ diagnosis. This information will be provided to Administration (COVID-19 Coordinator) who will contact the family and discuss instructional model options.
- Back to school preparation will inquire of all employees if they are at-risk, based on a health professionals’ diagnosis. Administration/COVID coordinator and the employee will coordinate adjustments to the work schedule or workplace.
- When the NDDoH or our Grand Forks Public Health inform the district of a student or staff member that is COVID-19 positive that information will be passed on to administration/COVID coordinator as allowable within district policy and law.

### *Isolation & Quarantine*

- Definitions (see appendix for more information).
  - Isolation – For people who are already sick from the virus. A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with the virus from healthy people.
  - Quarantine – For people who are not sick but have been exposed to the virus. A prevention strategy used to monitor people who were exposed for a period of time.
- Emerado Public School will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by NDDOH and GF Public Health unit.

### *If a student or staff members becomes sick at school (or school event)*

- Student
  - The child shall be provided a facial covering and isolated in the building sick room.
  - Parent / guardian will be contacted to pick up their child.
- Staff
  - Inform administration immediately and wear a face mask / shield until they can be replaced if supervising students at that time.

- Leave the school building/grounds and consult with a health care professional.

### *Return to School*

- When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined as directed by NDDoH or Grand Forks Public Health they will be allowed to return to school after being cleared by the NDDoH.

## Grade Level & School Building Level Closure

This is intended as guidance for COVID-19 Coordinators and school leaders on when to close classrooms, grades, and buildings. Guidance with the Grand Forks Public Health color-coded updates and operational phases listed below. Building and classroom closures will happen at a moment's notice and could change day to day. Instant alerts will be sent out notifying each grade level that classrooms will go to distance learning until cleared by Grand Forks Public Health, or the NDDoH.

- Close contact as defined as being within 6 ft. of another individual for 15 min or greater.
- If a school is closed for any length of time, the district will continue educational services with distance/online learning modality.
- NDDoH may close a school or district at their discretion.

## Facility Accommodations & Protocols

**Masks** – Will be optional for students and staff members who prefer them. Visitors will be encouraged to wear a face covering.

**Resources** – UV disinfecting/sanitizing lights, disinfecting fogger machines, hand sanitizer stations, temperature kiosks in doorways, masks, shields, gloves, pexiglass barriers in all classrooms and buses, ventilation system installation to increase circulation.

**Transportation** –Transportation will be provided.

**Attendance** – Required to be present during instruction times. Those not present will be marked absent.

**Grading** – All assignments and their due dates required.

**Special Education** – Face to Face: Pulled from class. Zoom meetings; requirements from last spring. IEP plans are outlined and posted on website [www.emeradok8.com](http://www.emeradok8.com).

**Visitation** – Volunteers and visitors will be allowed if checked in through the office.

# Operational Phases

Blue / Green	
Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students and staff health + safety.</li> <li>• Implement reasonable accommodations to reduce school-wide and community spread.</li> </ul>
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing where possible and reasonable.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Masks will be optional on buses where distancing will be unachievable, we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation for their child.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high touch/traffic areas.</li> <li>• Handwashing integrated throughout the day.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer available throughout each building.</li> <li>• Support and train parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources.</li> </ul>
Daily Checks & Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are asked to screen their student(s) each day before sending them to school.</li> <li>• Temperature kiosk in entryway of parent drop-off doorway. (Door #2)</li> </ul>
School Building:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective measures will be implemented in office and classroom spaces.</li> <li>• Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may require mitigation strategies.</li> <li>• Building will be routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines with special focus on high traffic areas.</li> </ul>
Classroom/Instruction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person instructional modality with guidelines during registration.</li> <li>• Limited use of shared materials and supplies.</li> <li>• Desks arranged to allow for cohort groups and social distancing where possible and reasonable.</li> </ul>
Common Areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students when moving around the building will move in cohort groups and reasonably try to limit exposure to other groups.</li> <li>• Schedules may be altered to reduce cohorts passing in common areas.</li> <li>• Breakfast/Lunch times and location will be altered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria.</li> </ul>
Extracurricular& Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.</li> <li>• Extra-curriculars will be available for in-person and distance learners.</li> </ul>
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information about how to stop the spread of COVID-19 on website.</li> <li>• Resources will be provided to staff, families, and students to help them deal with social, emotional, behavioral, and trauma associated with COVID-19.</li> </ul>
Yellow	
Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximize social distancing cohort where possible.</li> <li>• Support blended learning model.</li> </ul>
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on identified COVID cases of students and staff targeted closures may be implemented (class, grade, department, etc). While other areas of the school remain open and meeting students in person.</li> <li>• Social distancing where possible and reasonable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Masks will be encouraged on a school bus where distancing will likely be unachievable. We encourage parents to consider alternate transportation for their child.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high touch/traffic areas.</li> <li>• Handwashing integrated throughout the day.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer readily available.</li> <li>• Support and train parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources.</li> <li>• Provide technological support for distance learning students.</li> </ul>
School Building:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protective measures will be maintained in office + classroom spaces.</li> <li>• Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed.</li> <li>• Access to campus may be additionally limited, with new protocols.</li> </ul>
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may be attending school on a hybrid schedule.</li> <li>• Students will be expected to engage in learning opportunities online using Zoom, Seesaw, Google Classroom, etc. on days they are not in school.</li> <li>• Teachers are expected to make direct student/family contact in accordance with approved schedule.</li> <li>• Limited use of shared materials and supplies when students are in school.</li> <li>• Desks arranged to allow for cohort groups and social distancing where possible and reasonable.</li> <li>• Staff and students working in close proximity will be required to wear a face covering.</li> </ul>
Common Areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student movement around the building may be limited or staggered to reduce mixing of cohorts.</li> <li>• When moving around the building, students will move in cohort groups and reasonably try to limit exposure to others.</li> <li>• Lunch times and locations will be altered.</li> </ul>
Extracurricular& Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.</li> </ul>
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information about how to stop the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Share technology support resources for parents.</li> <li>• Share COVID-19 related updates regarding Emerado Public School and its operations.</li> <li>• Resources will be provided to staff, families, and students to help them deal with social, emotional, behavioral, and trauma associated with COVID-19.</li> </ul>

**Orange / Red**

Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the risk of community spread by closing school building.</li> </ul>
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online instruction will be used district wide in all courses at all grade levels.</li> <li>• Instruction will focus on essential learning targets.</li> <li>• Attendance and academic progress will be expected.</li> <li>• Grading policies will remain in accordance with in-person learning.</li> <li>• Provide internet access (wifi) hot spots to support distance learning where possible and feasible.</li> <li>• Local food distribution may be implemented by food service program in accordance to state guidelines.</li> </ul>
School Building:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to the general public except by special arrangement with the district office.</li> <li>• Small group meetings or instruction may be allowed, particularly for special needs students or academic interventions.</li> </ul>
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will engage in learning at the home.</li> <li>• Students will be expected to engage in learning opportunities online.</li> <li>• Teachers are expected to make direct student/family contact in accordance with approved schedule.</li> </ul>
Extracurricular& Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.</li> <li>• Athletic and other extra/co-curricular activities likely suspended.</li> <li>• Breakfast/Lunch delivery will begin.</li> </ul>
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear communication about academic expectations and grading shared with students and families.</li> <li>• Share technology support resources for parents.</li> <li>• Student/family support established.</li> <li>• Share COVID-19 related updates regarding Emerado Public School and its operations.</li> </ul>