

Newell School District Back to School Plan

Mission Statement

Newell School District desires safety for students and community members from communicable diseases such as Covid-19. We believe the school environment gives students the best chance to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. There is a need for group effort from parents/guardian(s), school personnel, and students ensuring school safety for learning.

Back to School committee members:

Mr. Fergen-Superintendent, Mr. Schoenfish-K-12th Principal/AD, Mrs. Muckridge- Technology Coordinator and Director of Student Services, Mrs. Mullaney-Special Education Director, Mrs. Burtzloff- High School science teacher, Mrs. McCann-Middle School math teacher, Mr. Sanderson-5th grade teacher, Mr. Weeldreyer-Director of transportation and maintenance, Mrs. Morell-Food Service Director, Mr. Bonnet- School Board member, Mr. Huntington-Public Health Region Director.

*When remote learning, 10 days= 10 calendar days

Parent Expectation

- Parents are an integral part of school safety.
- Make sure child(ren) practice good hygiene skills such as washing hands after using the restroom or touching surfaces that have been touched by other individuals.
- Make sure child(ren) are properly hydrating themselves throughout the day.
- Please have students bring a sanitized water container daily to ensure that proper hydration. Water fountains are bottle-use only.
- Parents/guardian(s) and community members should use hand sanitizer when entering 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.
- Parents/guardians should discuss the back-to-school plan with their child(ren).

Students expectation

- Students need to practice good hygiene 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 is not mandated.
- Social distance yourself as often as possible on school buses, classrooms, cafeterias, and other rooms throughout the school.
- Students will report to the central office in their appropriate building (K-8 Mrs. Dirk's office and 9-12th Mrs. Lamphere's office) if they are late to school for any reason.
- Students going off campus for lunch or other reasons will be expected to sanitize hands when returning.
- Students will only be able to use refill stations for water. No direct drinking from fountains.

School District Personnel Expectations

- Newell School District personnel will create an environment in school to reduce the spread of germs.
- Newell School District personnel will educate students on proper health etiquette throughout the year.
- Newell School District will socially distance students as much as possible throughout the school day.
- Newell School District will provide proper air quality to students and staff through an air filtration system which was installed in every building on campus during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Teachers and bus drivers will have assigned seats for each class period for ease of contact tracing.

Safety Protocol and procedures by school personnel

- Students will be socially distanced as much as possible in the classroom.
- Surfaces touched by students will be sanitized daily by school personnel.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be found throughout the buildings and will include stations between classrooms, at entrances, in front of restrooms, and in the lunchroom.
- Students will not share supplies in the classroom.
- Preschool students will meet rides outside the west doors in the elementary. School personnel will help students to this destination.
- School transportation will be sanitized by school personnel after every use.
- Students will be released in intervals to eat as a class during lunch. Students will be seated in tables for lunch with classmates.
 - K 10:50 to 11:15
 - 1 11:00 to 11:25
 - 2 11:10 to 11:35
 - 3 11:20 to 11:45
 - 4 11:30 to 11:50
 - 5 11:40 to 12:00
 - Grades 6-8 12:05 to 12:30
 - Grades 9-12 12:30 to 1:00
- Students will have five minutes between all classes and will need to follow signage in buildings for transitions.

Phases for Instruction

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

1. Phase **ONE**- Traditional learning with safety procedures in place while preparing parents and students for possible remote learning.
2. Phase **TWO**- 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. The student that tested positive for Covid-19 will do Remote learning for 10 days. Students that have been in contact with student that tested positive for Covid-19 will have their parent/guardian called by school personnel. The

contact will be required to wear a mask to school for three days or do remote learning at home for three days. Rooms that have had a positive case Covid-19 will be closed for 24 hours and thoroughly cleaned afterwards due to DOH recommendations.

- After 10 days, students can return to Traditional learning as long as they are symptom free (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>).
- 3. Phase **THREE** -If multiple students with a positive Covid-19 test are in one building such as the high school, middle school, or elementary school, deep cleaning of the school will occur for five days and students in that school will do Remote learning for the five days.
 1. All extra-curricular activities in the building that is being deep cleaned will be postponed for the five-day period.
- 4. Phase **FOUR**- If multiple buildings such as the high school, middle school, or elementary school have multiple students that test positive for Covid-19,deep cleaning will occur the entire school for five days and students in the district will be doing Remote learning for the five days.
 1. All extra-curricular activities in the building that is being deep clean will be postponed for the five-day period
- 5. **After 10 days**, students can return to Traditional learning as long as they are symptom free (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>).

Covid-19 Vaccination

The Newell School District believes that Covid-19 vaccinations for students and staff are a personal choice. If a student or staff is interested in the Covid-19 vaccination, they can contact Monument Health at 605-755-1350 to set up an appointment for Covid-19 vaccination.

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.
 - These students will receive remote education instruction for 10 days as well.

This is a living document that is subject to change based on the Covid-19 pandemic in the region and the state. The Newell 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.

Board Approved Monday July 13th, 2020

Board reconsidered and approved Monday October 12th, 2020

Board reconsidered and approved Monday November 16th, 2020

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