

September-COVID Response

Most of us had fervently hoped that COVID would be gone this year, nope, not happening yet! Administration, janitors, lunchroom staff, secretaries, teachers, and especially parents have all worked together to allow us to stay in school! We will need to continue to be diligent in our efforts to keep our student body healthy. This situation is a marathon, not a sprint! For that reason, you will find that students will need to stay home and will get sent home more often as they were last year. The option to “treat, rest, wait and see” is not prudent at this time. Please be aware of your **Student Symptom Screening Daily Checklist** and the updated **School Sick Day Guidelines**.

Questions to consider every morning:

- 1) Have you had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- 2) Do you have a fever of 100.4 or greater?
- 3) Do you have a headache (not related to a known health condition such as migraines)?
- 4) Do you have unexplained muscle pain?
- 5) Do you have chills?
- 6) Do you have a sore throat?
- 7) Do you have a new or worsening cough?
- 8) Do you have new or worsening shortness of breath?
- 9) Do you have nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea?
- 10) Do you have a new loss of taste or smell?

If YES to ANY of these questions DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL. Please seek guidance from your medical provider.

If there are any of these symptoms, there needs to be a full 24 hours of observation of symptoms. So, to ensure that this can happen, as an example: if a student is ill on a Monday or sent home from school on Monday, the earliest he/she can come back to school is Wednesday.

If these symptoms are accompanied by a COVID close contact, the student should contact their medical provider for testing consideration or a return to school order. If a student does not have a medical provider visit, they can be excluded from in person school for 10 days from symptom onset, in addition to 24 hours without fever and symptom improvement.

These guidelines are from the recommendations of the SD Department of Education and the SD Department of Health:

<https://doh.sd.gov/>

doe.sd.gov

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