

Parkston School District - Safe Return to School Plan - 2021-2022

*** The reader should note the following are recommendations from the Safe Return to School Committee to the Parkston School Board, who will consider the recommendations at the August 9th School Board Meeting. The committee respects all positions on this matter, and while not everyone will agree with the recommendations, please keep in mind that the goal of the committee is to keep students and staff safe while providing the best educational experience as possible.

Please be advised that all mitigation strategies addressed in the plan are subject to change and will be contingent on the COVID-19 virus and its impact on the School Community, Community of Parkston, and Hutchinson County. DOH community spread designation (None, Minimal, Moderate, and Substantial) will be monitored weekly.

MASKS:

***Utilization of masks will be encouraged but not mandated to start the school year. However conditions of the virus perpetuating mask use will be evaluated weekly based on the School Community, Community of Parkston, and Hutchinson County Community spread designation. An appropriate wearing of mask info graph is at the end of the plan.**

*Bussing: encouraged anytime riding the bus

*Students: encouraged but will not be mandated to start the school year. Must follow Close Contact procedures.

*Staff: encouraged but will not be mandated to start the school year. Must follow Close Contact procedures.

Vaccinations: While the Parkston School District is not requiring vaccination for student's ages 12-18 and Staff it is working with Avera St. Benedict to inform staff and parents of the option to vaccinate their child. A vaccination clinic at the school will be discussed by the school board as a mitigation strategy on a monthly basis.

Social, Emotional-learning, and Mental Health Needs:

*Student Needs: Students will be afforded the supports to address SEL needs with the creation of a Sensory room to be used for those students who become overwhelmed, anxious, and overstimulated at any point in the day in order to take a sensory break. A separate Wellness room will be implemented for those that demonstrate the need to visit with counseling support staff upon request and referral from teachers and parents/guardians. The district will invest and implement a Social-Emotional Learning Program. It will be a systemic approach for K-12 and will partner with an outside resource/vendor called 7 Mindsets for that programming implementation efforts. The district will also expand on the current counseling relationship it has with Lewis & Clark Mental Health or like agency to be able to serve and support more students on a deeper level.

*Staff Needs: Staff will be offered the mental health supports by the district upon their request. The district will provide guidance on agencies and programming that adults have access to. Monetary supports for staff mental health support will be considered on a case by case basis.

Students Get Ready for Learning:

*Parents are expected to conduct student symptom screening checklist daily, before sending child to school. Checklist is attached at the end of the plan.

*Parents will check with medical professional if symptomatic

*DO NOT bring children to school if symptomatic.

Transportation:

*Parents need to realize that we are unable to provide social distancing on our busses.

*Riding the bus is "at-your-own-risk".

*Parents are asked to transport their children to and from school when possible

*The committee is encouraging all students to wear masks while anytime riding the bus due to the inability to social distance and for Route Bus Driver protection.

*Students will be assigned seats. In family units as much as space allows.

*Windows will be open when possible and as weather allows.

*Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon getting on the bus

*Busses will be sanitized daily.

Student Arrives at School:

*Parents please drop off students in the east parking lot. Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick-up students without coming into the building as often as possible. Parents are encouraged to pick-up their students after the busses have departed at 3:20.

*Upon arriving at the school, students will proceed directly to classrooms, unless they want breakfast.

*Parents transporting students to and from school shall use the designated pickup point/lane on the east side of school.

*Parents should remain in their vehicles while accessing drop-off and pick-up points whenever possible.

*Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria and the Armory for social distancing purposes. PK-6 will be afforded the opportunity to sit in the commons/lunch room area and eat a grab and go breakfast while the 7-12 will be afforded the grab and go opportunity to take to their first period classroom

*Students will have access to buildings at 7:50 am. Staff will be expected to be in classrooms at assigned work day times from 8:00 -3:30.

*Parents are asked to NOT bring their children to school earlier if at all possible, unless they have made previous arrangements with staff. While we are here to help and serve we are asking that this does not become a habitual practice.

*In the case of inclement weather, the MPR and Armory will be used for waiting area in order to provide social distancing.

*Students will go directly to their classroom/first period classroom.

*Students will remain in their "cohort" with their classmates while in the building to reduce the number of contacts they have each day.

*Students will move about the building on the right side of the hallway, in single file when possible. All students will be discouraged from congregating in the hallways.

*Temperature checks are asked to be performed prior to arriving at school. Students in need of screening will be directed to the School Nurse for evaluation.

Building Access:

*Outside Vendors will be allowed in the school by appointment only. Vendors will be encouraged to wear a mask depending on their county/community of origin.

*All other deliveries will be left in vestibule. They will ring in and let us know they are leaving the delivery.

*Classroom volunteers will be welcomed to start the school year. However the practice will be evaluated weekly as the conditions of the virus warrant. Visitors (Parents/Volunteers) will be encouraged to wear mask while in school pending community and county of origin and its designation of community spread unless vaccinated.

Cleaning of Facilities/Student Staff Hygiene:

*Hand washing schedules will be developed throughout at teacher discretion. Students will be encouraged to practice handwashing, sanitizing, and respiratory etiquette daily.

*Appropriate handwashing, sanitizing, and respiratory etiquette information/info graphs will be displayed and emphasized by all staff throughout the building and in all classrooms.

*Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, restrooms, entrances and on busses.

*Merv-13 air filtration filter will continue to be utilized.

*Increased outside air exchange

* Social distancing will be encouraged when and where possible.

*Custodial Cleaning and Disinfecting schedule is available at the end of the plan.

Delivery of Instruction:

*Two different mode of instruction will be used depending upon the Viruses School Community, Parkston Community, and County levels and designation of virus spread. Attendance will be expected and tracked for all students.

*Phase 1: Face-to-Face instruction will be the goal. Teachers will utilize swivel and google classroom resources to instruct students at home due to students' quarantine or isolation status. Students who are attending school from home due to quarantine or isolation status are expected to be present (if health conditions allow) at all scheduled class times.

*Phase 2: Distance/On-line Learning due to forced school and district closure – This mode of learning will be considered as an option for instructional delivery based on specific classroom, school community, Parkston community, and county levels designation of virus spread. Regular class schedules will be expected to be followed. All staff will engage students in learning experiences using Swivel and Google classroom from school unless health and virus reasons require the teacher to teach from home.

*There will be NO option offered for those families opting to educate their children from home. This will require parents to contact the DOE to enroll in Alternative Instruction (Home School). Parents who choose this option will not have access to Parkston certified teaching staff. Any learning resources utilized by the district and needed by parents to help them educate their students may be provided by the district.

High Risk Courses due to aerosol and high frequency utilization of materials:

*Art, Vocal, Instrumental and Physical Education: The administration will work with these staff members assigned to such courses to help determine how best to deliver these courses and utilization of materials.

*Locker rooms will be used in a fashion that provides the most social distancing. They will be cleaned and disinfected after each class.

Large Group Settings:

*Lunch will be served by kitchen staff to minimize student contact. Schedules will be developed to allow for minimal numbers and classes will be kept in cohorts, with social distancing while eating emphasized. Current lunch room spaces and the MPR will be used.

*PK-6 Recess outdoors will be allowed without restriction to start the school year. In-door recess when needed will be monitored with cohort interaction limited when possible.

Small Group Settings:

*Students and Staff will practice Social Distancing during class instruction when and where possible.

*Staff will be encouraged to wear appropriated PPE and implement cleaning and exposure mitigation strategies during small group instruction pending the level of school community spread.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

*The district will follow the SDHSAA Covid-19 committee's recommendations and guidelines for all Extra Curricular athletic and fine arts activities. Come at your own risk. Participate at your own risk.

***SD DOH and CDC change in isolation guidance from 12/27/21 does not apply to Parkston student athletes in all extra-curricular activities per board decision as of 1/10/2022. Students testing positive will not be allowed to practice, compete, or participate during their 10-day isolation period.**

***Students identified as a close contact will be allowed to practice and compete during the duration of the assigned quarantine period but will do so following the district's Close Contact guidance as long as**

they remain symptom free and wear a mask for the quarantine period that they have been identified with.

*Fan attendance: This will not be restricted, nor will masks be required to start the school year. However, indoor activities will be subject to more restrictions depending on the levels of School Community, Parkston Community, and County designations of viral spread. There may be times when we need to limit attendance. Masks are encouraged at all indoor activities.

*Admissions and ticket takers - staff will be encouraged to wear all appropriate PPE regardless of the event being indoor or outdoor.

*Concessions – will be offered in traditional settings and products. All workers are encouraged to wear all appropriate PPE while working and interacting with the public. The Parkston School District will not guarantee anyone's safety. The delivery method will be monitored weekly according to the School Community, Parkston Community, and County designation level of spread. This will apply to opposing school district's designation as well.

Student with a Positive Test: Updated 1/10/2022

The Parkston School District will follow guidance from the SD DOH and CDC. The point of emphasis with the new guidance is to allow students and staff to return to school in a more timely manner pending their health status. There are three strategies for guidance.

Strategy One: All students have the option to remain home for the entire 10 day isolation period.

Strategy Two: Covid Positive (Symptomatic):

All students will isolate for five (5) days from the date of symptom onset. Students will be expected to be asymptomatic for 24 hours prior to their return to school. Masks will be mandatory for the remaining five (5) days of the initial isolation period.

Strategy Three : Covid Positive (Asymptomatic):

All students will isolate for five (5) days from the date of a positive test. Masks will be mandatory for the remaining five (5) days upon their return to school and remain asymptomatic. If symptoms do present themselves after the positive test date, the five (5) day isolation period will start over from the date of symptom onset. Students are expected to be and remain symptom free upon returning and abide with the remaining five (5) days of mandatory masking. Testing out of mask protocols during the five (5) day mandatory mask requirement upon return from isolation is NOT ALLOWED.

The Parkston School District and/or the DOH will notify the school and parents/guardians of their student's designation as a positive case. Students in isolation (infected) will be expected to learn from home (Swivel, Zoom, and Google Classroom) as long as their health permits. Student's attendance will be expected with absences recorded as absent/exempt.

Staff with a Positive Test: Updated 1/10/2022

*The Parkston School District will follow guidance from the SD DOH and CDC. The point of emphasis with the new guidance is to allow students and staff to return to school in a more timely manner pending their health status. There are three strategies for guidance.

Strategy One: All Staff will have the option to remain home for the entire 10 day isolation period.

Strategy Two: Covid Positive (Symptomatic):

All Staff will isolate for five (5) days from the date of symptom onset. Mandatory symptom free for 24 hours prior to their return to school. Masks will be mandatory for the remaining five (5) days of the initial isolation period.

Strategy Three : Covid Positive (Asymptomatic):

All Staff will isolate for five (5) days. Masks will be mandatory for the remaining five (5) days upon their return to school. If symptoms do present themselves after the positive test date the (five) 5 day isolation period will start over from the date of symptom onset. Staff are expected to be and remain symptom free upon returning and abide with the remaining five (5) days of mandatory masking. Testing out of the mask protocols during the five (5) day mandatory mask requirement upon return from isolation is NOT ALLOWED.

The Parkston School District and/or the DOH will notify staff of their designation as a positive case. Staff in isolation (infected) will be expected to teach from home (Swivel & Google Classroom) as long as their health permits. Substitutes will monitor the classroom in the staff member's absence. Staff will have sick days applied to their sick leave as the guidance to address the FFCRA expired at the end of 2020.

Student Close Contact:

*Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness device such as the Binax Now or Quidel QuickVue test) where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

*The district will conduct close contact tracing investigations and notify all students and their parent/guardian of their close contact designation. While the School will notify students and parents/guardian the DOH may or may not inform those identified on the close contact workbook. Students identified will have the following options: Any student identified as a close contact through the investigation process is expected to follow the following mitigation strategies.

***Due to the nature and instructional strategies necessary for learning to take place and the inability to social distance in an Elementary classroom any diagnosed Covid positive case within an elementary classroom will render that classroom section as a Close Contact, thus the entire class will follow the Close Contact protocol.**

1. All close contacts are mandated to wear a mask during the 10 day quarantine period in school and on buses. All Close Contacts have the ability to test out of quarantine by taking a Rapid Antigen Test (Binax Now Test or Quidel QuickVue Test) between days five and seven of the quarantine period. A negative

test will allow for mask removal on day eight for the duration of the quarantine period as long as they stay symptom free.

2. All close contacts must remain symptom free for 14 days.

3. All close contacts will undergo symptom checkpoints two times per day in the appropriate school level office during the quarantine period.

4. All close contacts will social distance when and where practical. Classrooms are structured to create as much distance as is possible. Close contacts are encouraged to attend school with the following mitigation strategies in place. However, parents can elect to have their student serve the 10 day quarantine and attend school virtually (Swivel & Google Classroom) through the duration of the specified time frame. Student's attendance will be recorded absent/exempt.

5. Screening Testing as a prevention Strategy: Screening testing can improve detection of SARS-CoV-2.

- Serial testing (within cohorts) with rapid isolation of infected individuals may help facilitate (in-person instruction in K-12 schools) while reducing the risk of a surge in local cases.
- Serial testing that requires frequent testing (1–5 times per week) combined with other risk reduction strategies will also help reduce the risk of a surge in local cases.
- Screening testing procedure: Close contact student will be allowed to participate in the school district's screening testing program if they so choose. Upon being notified of Close Contact Status parent/guardian of students can ask for and agree to consent to a Quidel QuickVue rapid antigen screening test be conducted. This will occur on a daily basis at 7:30 AM in the district's nurse's office for five consecutive school days. If results remain negative during the five school day testing protocol students will not be required to wear masks on days in which they tested during the Close Contact 10 day quarantine period. If a student does not want to participate in the screening testing program masks will be mandatory. A reminder that All Close Contacts have the ability to test out of quarantine by taking a Rapid Antigen Test (Binax Now Test or Quidel QuickVue Test) between days five and seven of the quarantine period but will be expected to wear a mask during that designated quarantine period leading up to day five-seven, unless they have a negative test. A negative test on school day five or seven of the quarantine period will allow for mask removal on day eight and testing is no longer needed for the duration of the quarantine period as long as they stay symptom free. Students may choose to wear a mask for the first five days of their assigned quarantine period or test any combination of days between day one and seven. A negative test exempts close contacts from masking protocol for the day of the test only. Testing must be done daily (days 1-7) to be exempt from masking protocol on any given day leading up to day eight.

Staff Close Contact:

*The district will conduct close contact tracing investigations and notify all Staff of their close contact designation. While the School will notify Staff the DOH may or may not inform those identified on the close contact workbook. **Staff have the designation of Essential Employees** therefor can remain performing their assigned duties but they are still afforded the following options: Any Staff identified as a close contact through the investigation process is expected to follow the following mitigation strategies.

1. All close contacts are mandated to wear a mask during the 10 day quarantine period in school and on busses. All Close Contacts have the ability to test out of quarantine by taking a Rapid Antigen Test (Binax Now Test or Quidel QuickVue Test) between days five and seven of the quarantine period. A negative test will allow for mask removal on day eight for the duration of the quarantine period as long as they stay symptom free.

2. All close contacts must remain symptom free for 14 days.

3. All close contacts will undergo symptom checkpoints two times per day in the appropriate school level office during the quarantine period.

4. All Staff close contacts will social distance when and where practical. 7-12 Classrooms are structured to create as much distance as is possible. This does not apply to a K-6 Classroom. Staff identified as close contacts are encouraged to attend school with the following mitigation strategies in place. However, staff can elect to serve their 10 day quarantine and teach school virtually (Swivel, Zoom, and Google Classroom) through the duration of the specified time frame, but will have sick days assessed for the duration of the quarantine period. Classroom support will be provided in the teacher's absence.

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- Serial testing that requires frequent testing (1–5 times per week) combined with other risk reduction strategies will also help reduce the risk of a surge in local cases.
- Screening testing procedure: Close contact staff will be allowed to participate in the school district's screening testing program if they so choose. Upon being notified of Close Contact Status. Staff can ask for and agree to consent to a Quidel QuickVue rapid antigen screening test be conducted. This will occur on a daily basis at 7:50 AM in the district's nurse's office for five consecutive school days. If results remain negative during the five school day testing protocol students will not be required to wear a mask during the Close Contact 10 day quarantine period. If a staff does not want to participate in the screening testing program masks will be mandatory. A reminder that All Close Contacts have the ability to test out of quarantine by taking a Rapid Antigen Test (Binax Now Test or Quidel QuickVue Test) between days five and seven of the quarantine period but will be expected to wear a mask during that designated quarantine period leading up to days five-seven. A negative test will allow for mask removal on day eight for the duration of the quarantine period as long as they stay symptom free and if the staff chooses to wear a mask for the first five days of their assigned quarantine period.

Student/Staff become ill while present at school:

*If student/staff becomes symptomatic during the day they will be subject to the following process - ICE (Isolate, Call parents, Exit building)

*All testing and mitigation strategies will be under the direction of the School Nurse and will take place in the identified isolation room.

*Students and Staff are encouraged to complete a screening tool each day, prior to coming to school.

Board Action:

*The board will be kept informed about the conditions of the virus in the school setting and will take any action in an emergency board format as often as needed.

*The board may have to consider modifying the school calendar if deemed necessary depending on the impact of the virus on the school setting.

*The board may need to meet with PEA to work out any conflicts with the negotiated agreement.

*The board will expect all use of district facilities by outside groups to adhere and implement the mitigation strategies and expectations being required at the time frame in which the activity is being conducted.

Other notes:

*The physical plant will be sanitized throughout the day, with high touch points sanitized multiple times daily.

*Staff and classrooms will all be supplied with hand sanitizer, and cleaning products to help sanitize their work areas.

*Water bottle filling stations are available throughout the facility. Students will be asked to bring a water bottle daily to use. For those that are not able to provide a water bottle will have one be provided as needed. Please clean or use new water bottles daily.

*All School Lunch items will be served to the students, there will be no self-serve.

* Students and Staff will be expected to abide by social distancing strategies while eating.

*Lunch Keypad will be operated by staff, with student providing their pin number orally.

Parkston School District - Safe Return to School Plan - 2021-2022

School Board Plan approval date: August 9th, 2021

Date of Last School Board review: August 9th, 2021

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