

Avon School District 4-1

Expect Excellence

Phone: 605-286-3291

Fax: 605-286-3712

<https://avon.k12.sd.us>

210 Pine Street, PO Box 407

Avon, South Dakota 57315

Tom Culver, Superintendent

Jeff Tolsma, Board President

Lindsey Fathke, K-12 Principal

Jordan Kortan, Business Manager

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN

To achieve continued success with a return to in-person instruction, the Avon School District will continue practices of transparency with stakeholders around: (1) mitigation efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and (2) strategies to ensure students have access to needed services for academic success. The District will communicate important updates and alerts to stakeholders in multiple languages, if applicable, utilizing Infinite Campus. Additionally, the District will post updates on the District's website and Facebook page.

This Safe Return Plan was approved at the August 17th, 2021 Avon School Board Meeting. The date of last review was June 12th, 2023. The plan will be reviewed every six months by the School Board. If there are any questions regarding this plan, please contact the Avon School District Superintendent, Tom Culver, at 605-286-3291 x 112. **The intention of the Avon School District is to return to a normal school year.**

1. Pre Screening

a. At Home:

- Parents will screen their children for fever, shortness of breath, headache, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, muscle or body aches, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea.
- Parents will call a Medical Professional if symptomatic.
- Students do NOT report to school if any of the above symptoms are present.
- Parents should keep kids at home if they are not feeling well or have symptoms.
- See policy in Avon School handbook pertaining to illness concerning fever.

b. At School:

- Handwashing/hand sanitizing and proper hygiene practices will be taught and practiced.
- Masks will be provided by the District for all PK-12 students to use if desired.

2. Pick Up/Drop Off (06/12/2023)

a. Students:

- The main door to the school will be locked until 7:30 AM. Once the staff member opens the front door, students should enter the building in an orderly fashion.

3. Daily Mitigation Procedures (Only implemented in the instance of a COVID outbreak.)

a. Classroom:

- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and throughout the building.
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands often and signs will be present in restrooms showing the correct handwashing etiquette.
- Reusable cloth masks will be provided by the District for use, when applicable.
- Students will be encouraged to follow appropriate respiratory etiquette such as covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing.

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- The use of specific cleaning solutions to combat any germs on surfaces will be used by staff throughout the day. Additionally, extra cleaning measures will be taken by maintenance staff as evaluated on a regular basis.
- All PK-12 students are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them daily. The bottle must be clear.

b. Lunchroom:

- Lunch tables will be spread out throughout the lunch room to create more space between student groupings.
- Dining areas will be disinfected after each use between student groups.
- Avon School staff will perform touch free entry of lunch codes for students to minimize surface contact.

c. Hallways:

- Backpacks will not be permitted in the classrooms, and students will be encouraged to limit locker trips.
- Teachers will limit the number of students in the hallway and making restroom trips during class time.

d. Parents/Visitors:

- Visitors from the outside are allowed in the building, each will enter through the south main entrance door and check into the main office to receive a pass.

e. Extra-Curricular Activities:

- Guidance from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, SD Department of Education, and CDC will be followed for all extra-curricular activities.

f. General Mitigation and Hygiene Measures:

- CDC Mask Wearing Guidance

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Face Masks and COVID-19: What Community Members Need to Know

Wearing a face mask and keeping 6 feet of distance from others are essential to stopping the spread of COVID-19. Masks that cover the mouth and nose can stop germs from leaving and entering the body and keep someone from getting sick.

Follow these steps when using a mask:

1. Clean hands with soap or hand sanitizer before putting on or taking off the mask.
2. Hold the mask up to the light. If light shines through the mask, do not wear. This means germs will be able to flow in and out of the mask.
3. Make sure the mask **completely covers the mouth and nose and fits tightly on the chin and the sides of the face**. Do not put masks on children under 2 years of age.
4. If using a cloth mask, make sure it is washed after each use. Do not reuse single-use medical masks.
5. Once the mask is on your face, do not touch it unless it is being removed. This can add germs to the mask.



Fully covers the mouth and nose



Does not cover nose



Does not cover mouth or nose

Choosing the Best Mask to Protect Against COVID-19



Good protection. These masks block most germs from getting into the air.



2-layer, Cotton Pleated Mask



Single-Use Medical Mask



2-layer, Cotton Olson-style Mask



Poor protection. These masks allow many germs to get into the air.



Loose-fitting Bandana



1-Layer Neck Scarf



1-layer, Knitted or Beaded Mask



Masks for health workers



Fitted N95 Mask



Face shield. A face shield is used to protect the eyes from germs. It should be worn with a mask that covers the nose and mouth.

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- South Dakota Department of Health Handwashing Etiquette

Hand Washing



HOW TO WASH

- Use soap and warm water
- Wash hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds
- Be sure to clean between fingers, under fingernails and under jewelry
- Rinse hands under warm water again to remove remaining soap
- Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet
- Dry hands well with a paper towel or air blower

WHEN TO WASH

- After arriving to a destination
- After working or playing outdoors
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose
- Before preparing or eating food and meals
- After using the restroom
- After working or playing with animals
- When you or others are ill
- When hands are visibly dirty



Provided by School Health in the
SD Departments of Health and Education
doh.sd.gov/schoolhealth/

- The District will maintain healthy facilities through the following measures:
 - Increased sanitation and cleaning measures executed by the custodial staff and classroom teachers.

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- Custodial staff cleaning practices will be focused on cleaning for health which includes a strong emphasis on disinfecting surfaces and touch points.
- Classroom teachers are provided with specific cleaning supplies to assist with classroom disinfecting.
- Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and offices.
- Custodial staff will check regularly to ensure paper towels, hand sanitizer, soap, and water are available and operable in all school locations.
- Employees will model and encourage good hygiene practices with students.
- The District will encourage systems to promote ventilation such as allowing classroom doors and windows to be open. Additionally, the District will consider capital upgrades to improve ventilation in high use and traffic areas such as the lunchroom and main gym.

4. Students who exhibit COVID symptoms at school

- a. Student will be required to wear their mask
- b. Student will be placed in an Isolation Area
- c. Contact parent/guardian and send the child home
- d. Record event and provide information to building administration
- e. Sanitize student desk, chair, locker, or used spaces
- f. Maintain confidentiality of all student/staff health information
- g. Avon School will follow-up with the parent/guardian
- h. In the event of a “confirmed case,” individuals within “direct contact” will be informed. A confirmed case is defined as having documentation from a health care provider or the SD Department of Health.

5. Quarantine Policy & Contact Tracing (Revised 08/09/2022)

The District will conduct contact tracing in the building only for students who test positive for COVID-19 and who also have been in attendance at school or extracurricular activities.

The District will follow the quarantine policy established by the CDC.

6. Avon School District Close Contact Policy (Revised 1/11/2021)

1. When staff, parents and/or the DOH notify the school of a positive COVID case, designated personnel will conduct contact tracing.
2. The district will use social distancing, use of masks, table and/or desk dividers as well as the length of the close contact in determining whether an individual is considered a potential close contact. Students and/or staff members will not be deemed in close contact if they were able to social distance (3 feet away and/or less than 15 minutes).
3. Students and parents will be notified by the school that their student is a potential close contact and may be subject to monitoring procedures.

4. Close Contact Procedure for Students Per “Essential” Designation (1/11/2021)

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1. Students and parents will be notified by the school when a student is identified as a close contact. Once designated, the close contact can remain in school under the following conditions:
 - a. Students will be required to wear a mask during school and all activities they are involved in.
 - b. Students will have their temperature taken two times per day and before any extra-curricular activities.
 - c. Students must remain symptom free during the **5** day assigned quarantine period, or they will be excluded until such time they are symptom free for 24 hours without medication.
 - d. Students will socially distance themselves from others during class when and where possible and during lunch.
5. With the above procedure, parents/guardians have the option to have their student(s) identified as close contact attend school via distance learning using Google classroom and Zoom sessions at home through the District's online learning plan for the duration of the recommended **5** day quarantine period.

7. Continuity of Educational Services:

- a. **On Site Delivery of Education:** We will start with in person instruction on August 16, 2023.
- b. **Short Term Off Site Delivery (Self – Quarantined, Mandated Quarantine, Symptoms Exhibited):**
 - i. Avon staff will deliver a combination of online learning platforms and/or hard copy packets for positive cases or those subject to quarantine. All other students will be required to attend school in person, unless the student has other illnesses or injuries.
- c. **Learning Loss:** The District will offer programs to help address learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs will include the K-6 “Early Start” Summer Program and the K-6 After School Tutoring Program.
- d. **Students’ Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** Students will have access to resources offered through the District such as a full time K-12 guidance counselor or the option to seek counseling services through Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health. District staff and teachers will also receive training to better support students’ social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- e. **Staff Members’ Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** Staff members will have the opportunity to attend professional development seminars that focus on the social, emotional, and mental health of educators.
- f. **Special Education Services/Accommodations for Children with Disabilities:** The Avon School District’s special education team is committed to providing educational opportunities for students with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible in alignment with public health guidelines. To address the unique needs of students with disabilities, the special education providers will continue to work collaboratively with parents and staff on an individualized basis to provide support and services in both the traditional and virtual settings. Questions regarding the services and accommodations provided can be directed to Avon Superintendent/Special Education Director Tom Culver (605-286-3291 x 112) or Avon Special Education Coordinator Stacy Paulsen (605-286-3291 x 146).

8. Avon School Operating Phases-During School Hours and Indoor Activities

- a. **Phase 1 – No cases in our school**
 - i. School is Open
 - ii. Traditional face-to-face instruction
 - iii. Reusable cloth masks will be provided by District for use if desired.

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b. Phase 2 – Confirmed case among students or school personnel

- i. When aware of a confirmed case, the school will follow recommendations from the CDC.
- ii. Individual classrooms, grade levels or school may close.
- iii. Short Term Off Site Delivery of Content may be invoked.
- iv. Parents will be notified from the school of the situation.
- v. For the purposes of Phase 2, the grades will be grouped into the following sections PK-4 and 5-12. Mandatory masks will go into effect if there are more than 5% of the student body cases at the same time in a section. Masks will be worn by that section until a 5 calendar day period lapses from the most recent case. The 5-calendar day period is calculated starting two days prior to the onset of symptoms by the last positive student.

c. Phase 3 – Outbreak of cases in school or community

- i. When aware of a confirmed case, the school will follow recommendations from the CDC.
- ii. School Building will be closed until deemed safe to return.
- iii. Short Term Delivery will be implemented.
- iv. Parents will be notified from the school of the situation.

- 9. Avon School Review of Safe Return Plan:** The adopted date of this plan by the Avon School Board is August 17, 2021. The Avon School Board revised the plan and adopted the revisions on June 12, 2023. The Avon School Board will review the Safe Return Plan at the following school board meetings December 11th, 2023, and June 10, 2024.

Adopted August 17, 2021