

Parkston School District - Safe Return to School Plan - 2023-2024

CLOSE CONTACT TRACING MITIGATION STRATEGIES WILL BE SUSPENDED TO START THE SCHOOL YEAR. HOWEVER, THE DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REINSTATE CLOSE CONTACT STRATEGIES AS THE VIRUS NECESSITATES.

TESTING: DUE TO THE CHANGE IN NO CLOSE CONTACT TRACING SERIAL TESTING IS NOT NEEDED. HOWEVER, TESTING WILL BE OFFERED FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF AS LONG AS TESTING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE DISTRICT.

This Plan is a fluid document. The School Board reserves the right to implement any mitigation strategies when necessary with or without patron/constituent input.

*** 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 8th 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/variants and their impact on the School Community, Community of Parkston, and Hutchinson County. DOH community spread designation (Low, Moderate, Substantial, and High) will be monitored weekly.

MASKS:

***The utilization of masks will be at the discretion of the individual families to start the school year. However conditions of the virus that may perpetuate mask use will be evaluated as necessary 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.

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.

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 **ENCOURAGED** and **EXPECTED** to keep their children who are sick/ill or exhibiting symptoms home until they are symptom free for 24 hour without fever reducing medications.

*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

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 still encouraging all students to wear masks while riding the bus due to the inability to social distance and for Route Bus Driver protection.

*Students will be assigned seats when necessary due to virus spread. 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 their assigned areas, 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 if necessary the Armory if and when social distancing is implemented. PK-5 will be afforded the opportunity to sit in the commons/lunch room area and eat a grab and go breakfast while the 6-12 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 staging prior to school starting.

*Students will go directly to their assigned area.

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

*Temperature checks are encouraged to be performed prior to arriving at school.

*Students in need of screening will be directed to the School Nurse for evaluation. All staff have the authority to send student(s) for an evaluation when symptoms are observed or suspected.

Building Access:

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

*Classroom volunteers will be welcomed at the start the school year. However, the practice will be evaluated as the conditions of the virus warrant. Visitors (Parents/Volunteers) will be encouraged to wear a mask if the spread of the virus warrants.

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 still be considered depending upon the Viral spread within the School Community, Parkston Community, and County levels and designation of virus spread. Student attendance will be expected and tracked for all delivery methods.

***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' illness and isolation status. Students who are attending school from home due to illness and isolation status are expected to be present virtually (if health conditions allow) at all scheduled classes.

***Phase 2: Distance/On-line Learning due to forced grade, school, and district closure** – This mode of learning will be considered as an option for instructional delivery based on the 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 due to Covid concerns. 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 as the viral spread warrants.

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 and will be kept in cohorts as the virus warrants. Social distancing while eating will be emphasized when necessary. All spaces (Lunch Room/Classrooms/MPR/Armory) are available for use when necessary.

*PK-5 Recess outdoors will be allowed without restriction to start the school year. In-door recess when needed will be monitored with grade/section/cohort interaction limited when necessary.

Small Group Settings:

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

*Staff will still be encouraged to wear appropriate PPE and implement cleaning and exposure mitigation strategies during small group instruction when necessary.

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.

COVID POSITIVE CASE:

Per school board action (2/14/22) ALL coaches and athletes will serve the mandatory 5-day isolation determined by date of symptom onset or positive test result date.

Coaches who have tested positive will be allowed to return to coaching duties (practice and competition settings) after the 5 day isolation period and they report to the administration that are 24 hour symptom free. Masks will be mandated for the remaining 5-day isolation period.

Positive athletes who have tested positive will be allowed to return to participation (practice and competition settings) after the 5 –day isolation period. Athletes will only do so after submitting the SDHSAA "Return to Play Form" signed by a health care official licensed to make a determination of the athletes overall health condition. Athletes will remain symptom free. Masks will be mandated for the remaining 5-day isolation period.

*Fan attendance: 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 limiting attendance will be considered.

*Concessions – will be offered in traditional settings and products. The Parkston School District will not guarantee anyone's safety. The delivery method will be monitored according to the School Community, Parkston Community, and County designation level of spread. This will apply to opposing school district's designation as well.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

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 is to allow students to return to school in a timelier 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 EXPECTS ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS will notify the District 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.

In the event Parents/Guardians ask the District to conduct Covid testing (as long as testing materials are available) when symptoms are evident and observed at home or during school the District will notify parents/guardians/students of the results.

Staff with a Positive Test: Updated 1/10/2022 reviewed June 12, 2023

*The Parkston School District will follow guidance from the SD DOH and CDC. The point of emphasis is to allow staff to return to school in a timelier 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 EXPECTS ALL STAFF will notify the District 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.

In the event Staff ask the District to conduct Covid testing (as long as testing materials are available) when symptoms are evident and observed the District will notify Staff of the results.

Student and Staff Close Contact: The District WILL NOT be conducting Close Contact Investigations with respect to exposures to the virus that results in masking or the need for serial testing protocol that was in place. However, the District will communicate with Parents/Guardians/Students/Staff when a positive case has been diagnosed at any one section, grade, or team level. Parents/Guardians/Students/Staff have the ability to follow mask and quarantine protocol if they so choose. THE DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REINSTATE CLOSE CONTACT STRATEGIES AS THE VIRUS NECESSITATES.

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 Administration. The ICE protocol 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.

Covid Positive Thresholds: The following will be used when CONSIDERING any Masking protocol changes:

Data points to CONSIDER prior to any decision about implementing a mask mandate for the entire student body at the independent section, class, grade, team, school, or the entire district level.

- The number of Covid positive students at any one time in any one section, class, grade, or team at the independent school level.
- A minimum of two (2) known Covid positive students in any one section, class, grade, or team at any one time at the independent school level.
- A 3% student body infection rate at any one time at the independent school level.
- Elementary PK - 5: 3% of 280 (estimated) = 8.40 students
- Secondary 6-12: 3% of 235 (estimated) = 7 students
- All school-level mask mandates will be re-evaluated after 10 calendar days from the date of implementation.
- A school or district level mask mandate will supersede all other close contact mitigation strategies from the designated mask mandate time frame until the mask mandate is rescinded.
- Mask mandates can be implemented per board directive for any section, class, grade, team, or district level on a case by case basis.

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.

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

Parkston School District - Safe Return to School Plan - 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024.

School Board Plan initial approval date: August 9th, 2021

Dates of Plan Review by School Board:

August 9th, 2021

October 11th, 2021

December 1st, 2021

January 10th, 2022

February 14th, 2022

August 8th, 2022

January 9th, 2023

June 12th, 2023

Contact Person for questions:

Patrick Mikkonen

Superintendent

Contact Information:

Office phone 928-3268 ext. 203