

Reviewed 10/10/22

# **Billings County Health and Safety Plan**



## **ND Smart Restart 2020-2021**

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# HEALTH & SAFETY SMART RESTART PLAN

Billings County School Board  
August 11, 2020

Billings County School Families,

It has been a challenge for our entire community since March, but we hope you have found ways to cope and embrace this new normal. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and community members who have helped us succeed in these difficult times. The 2019-2020 school year was challenging but we are proud of students and thankful to our staff and families.

The challenge now is planning for what school will look like during the 2020-2021 school year. This is a daunting task as we all realize how the impact and response to COVID-19 has changed rapidly over the past four months. This plan will try to address these challenges, while providing a flexible framework to guide our response over the next school year.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we are compelled to strive to return to an in-person model. Yet, we cannot disregard that the health and safety concerns associated with the virus remain. The district must consider all practical steps to keep our schools from contributing to virus spread in our community.

This plan presents hundreds of hours of critical thinking, research, modeling, and work by our educators, staff, and school board. This group reviewed input gathered from our employees and parents.

We realize that reviewing this plan may not address every question you have. We recognize some concepts and actions may be polarizing, and there are strong opinions about what the school should do or should not. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so we can move forward. Our plan is also a “working” document, methods and approaches can and will change as needed.

Thank you for your time reviewing this plan. We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward. Together, our school can provide quality education to our children in a safe manner if we work together to solve problems.

Respectfully,

Shae Peplinski  
Superintendent

Danielle O’Brien  
Assistant Superintendent

Joey Kessel  
School Board President

# Assumptions & Assurances

## BCSD believes:

- Every student should have the opportunity to engage in learning, regardless of the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- Schools have a vital role in providing safe environments for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health.
- By working together with educators, staff, health care professionals, parents, students, and community members we can solve most challenges.
- Our district will make decisions based on the most current guidance from local, state, and national health care officials.
- Our School Board will ensure our plan meets the needs of our students, educators, staff and community.

## Our Planning Team

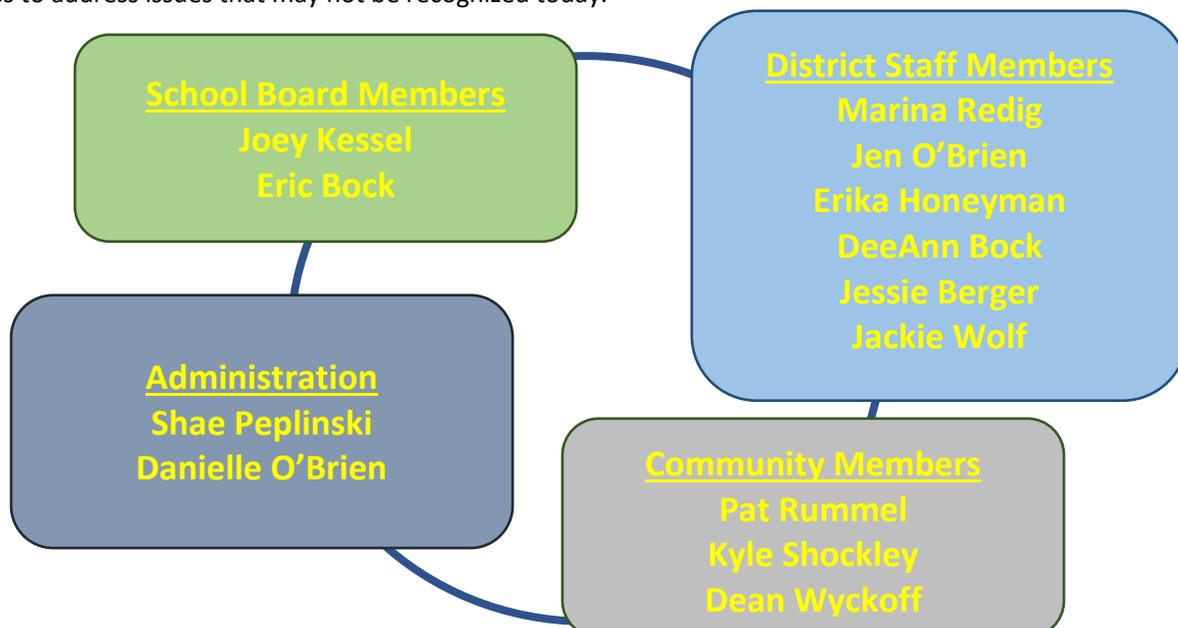
The BCSD Return to Learning Plan was crafted and reviewed by a team consisting of the following

- Educators
- Custodial Staff
- Parents
- Your local health office (NDDoH)
- A secretary
- School Board Members
- Administration
- Staff Members

Input was gathered by various means to allow for a wide range of input, while maintaining social distancing.

# COVID-19 Response Team

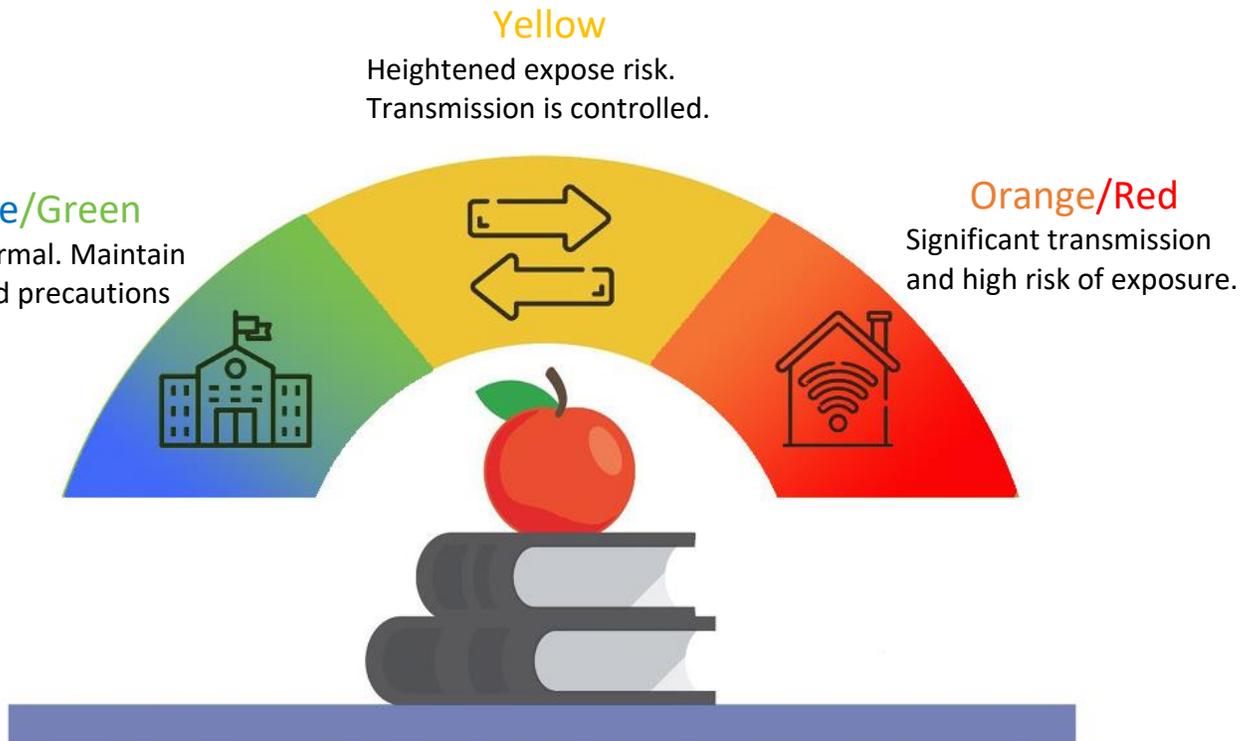
This organizational structure was crafted to assist in the development and monitoring of the district return to learning plan. This structure identifies leaders and guiding team members that will serve as a voice in how the district responds to COVID-19 during the school year. This plan is designed to address the issues of reopening as well as provide a nimble and responsive process to address issues that may not be recognized today.



# Phases

The following phases will be used to define the community risk level associated with COVID-19. These phases align with the color-coded guidance in the ND Smart Restart Plan. Each level is reported to schools by the NDDoH after rigorous testing and assessment of cases in the community. [ND Smart Restart Plan](#)

The ND state risk level color supersedes our building risk level. Therefore, if the state moves to yellow or red, we will follow suit. However, if we as a building need to adjust our building level based on current events, we can take that step.



## Instructional Models

The instructional models used by the district will be guided, in part, by the risk level of COVID-19 in the community as defined within the phases above. This is a guide as instructional models could be altered based on other factors, such as occupancy levels, age of children, and abilities to move certain classes online.



### Traditional Learning

All instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule. Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety.



### Blended Learning

Students report to school on a modified schedule. Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate to meet the educational needs through a variety of delivery models. Students will commit to instructional model for 1 quarter at a time unless a medical absence becomes necessary.



### Distance Learning via Microsoft Teams

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources or suited to the unique needs of the student.

# Health and Safety Guidance

The district strives to provide a healthy and safe environment for all who occupy our schools. The following guidelines are intended to provide a framework for the district's response to COVID-19.

## Resources

ND Department of Public Instruction - <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/nddpi-updates-and-guidance-covid-19>

ND Department of Health - <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

## Best Intentions

*Despite taking every reasonable precaution, there is no guarantee that our school's will be without risk as it relates to COVID-19. The virus will be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, social distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus.*

## Protect Yourself and Others

### *Wash your hands often*



- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

### *Cover coughs and sneezes*



- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

### *Clean and disinfect*



- School staff should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Shared materials should be cleaned.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.

### *Monitor your health daily*



- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Use the screening guidance provided (see appendix).
- Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
- Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.
  - Symptomatic students will be isolated, and their guardians contacted.

### *Access to building*

- Visitors REQUIRED to wear face-coverings if they must enter the building
- Limited visitor access (by appointment; official school business only)
- Later Arrival – Guardian will bring student no further than the entrance.
- Early Pick-up- Guardian will wait by the entrance for student

# Health & Safety Protocols

## Student & Staff Health

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. BCSD will take the following measures to ensure all students and staff are healthy while they are at school.

### *Identifying Students & Staff at Higher Risk*

- Back to School and enrollment processes will include questions asking families to identify if their child is at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. This information will be provided to the building principal (COVID-19 Coordinator) who will contact the family and discuss instructional model options.
- The central office will inquire of all employees if they are at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. The HR office will work in partnership with the building principal/director and the employee to coordinate adjustments to the work schedule or workplace.
- When the NDDoH or our BCSD local health department informs the district of a student or staff member that is COVID-19 positive that information will be passed on to HR and the building principal / director as allowable within district policy and law.

### *Isolation & Quarantine*

- Definitions (see appendix for more information).
  - Isolation – For people who are already sick from the virus. A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with the virus from healthy people.
  - Quarantine – For people who are not sick but have been exposed to the virus. A prevention strategy used to monitor people who were exposed for a period of time.
- BCSD will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by NDDOH and our local health unit.

### *If a student or staff members becomes sick at school (or school event)*

- Student
  - Direct / escort the child to the office.
  - The child shall be provided a facial covering and isolated in the building sick room.
  - Parent / guardian will be contacted to pick up their child.
  - Student may return to school after being fever free for 24 hours without medicine, according to policy.
- Staff
  - Inform your supervisor immediately and wear a face mask / shield until they can be replaced if supervising students at that time.
  - Leave the school building/grounds and consult with a health care professional.
  - Staff may return to school after being fever free for 24 hours without medicine, according to policy.

### *Return to School*

- When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined as directed by NDDoH or BCSD they will be allowed to return to school after being cleared by the NDDoH.

Building Risk Level	Instructional Model	Location	Mask for Students and Staff	Physical Distance
Blue	New Normal	Onsite	No	No
Green	Hybrid	Combination of on and off site	Optional	Required
Yellow	Hybrid	Combination of on and off site	Recommended	Required
Red	Distance Learning	100% off site	N/A	N/A

## **BEFORE SCHOOL!**

Parents are asked to review this daily health checklist by answering these questions before sending their child to school.  
(Parents do not need to send the questionnaire to school)

Has your child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a new or worsening shortness of breath?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have new or worsening cough?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have chills?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a sore throat?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_



If **YES** to any of the questions **STOP!**

Do not send your child to school. Contact your healthcare provider. Contact your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

If you are able to answer **NO** to all questions, go to school.



## COVID-19: What's the Difference Between Physical Distancing, Quarantine and Isolation?

	<b>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</b>	<b>QUARANTINE</b>	<b>ISOLATION</b>
<b>Who is it for?</b>	People who haven't been exposed to the virus or are not aware of exposure to the virus.	People who don't currently have symptoms of the virus but were exposed to the virus.	People who are already sick from the virus.
<b>What is it?</b>	A precautionary measure used to help prevent the spread of the virus.	A prevention strategy used to monitor people who were exposed to the virus for a period of time to see if they become ill.	A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with the virus from healthy people.
<b>Where does it take place?</b>	Takes place outside the home in public places like grocery stores and work environments.	Takes place in a home setting.	Can take place in a home when medical attention is not required. Takes place in a hospital when medical care is required.
<b>When do I use it?</b>	At all times until further directed by the ND Department of Health.	If you have recently traveled internationally or have known exposure to the virus.	If you have tested positive or have symptoms and have not yet obtained a test.
<b>How long is it for?</b>	At all times until further directed by the ND Department of Health.	14 days after your last exposure. Once your quarantine period has ended, if you do not have symptoms, you may return to your normal routine.	A minimum of 10 days from the beginning of symptoms and 72 hours after your fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms have significantly improved.
<b>What does this mean for my daily life?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid large gatherings.</li> <li>• Stay 6-feet away from people.</li> <li>• If you are unable to stay 6-feet away from other people, wear a cloth face covering.</li> <li>• Call or video-chat with friends or loved ones, particularly those that are elderly or have underlying health conditions that places them at high-risk.</li> <li>• If possible, work from home.</li> <li>• Practice good hygiene and avoid shaking hands or touching your face.</li> <li>• If you become ill and need medical attention, call your health care provider.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay at home and avoid close contact with others.</li> <li>• Do not attend school, work or any other setting where you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance from other people.</li> <li>• Call or video-chat loved ones.</li> <li>• For food, medication and other necessities, obtain through friends or family, or use a contactless delivery service.</li> <li>• Practice standard hygiene and precautionary measures like not sharing household items, washing your hands, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.</li> <li>• Monitor your symptoms. If you become ill and need medical attention, call your health care provider.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not leave your home unless it is in an emergency. If you are in a home with others, stay in a "sick" room by yourself and, if possible, do not share a bathroom.</li> <li>• If you have a pet and live with others, do not touch your pet.</li> <li>• For food, medication and other necessities, obtain through friends or family, or use a contactless delivery service. Try to stock up for the duration of the isolation.</li> <li>• Practice standard hygiene and precautionary measures like not sharing household items, washing your hands, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.</li> <li>• If a caregiver cleans your room or bathroom, they should wear a mask and wait as long as possible after you've used the bathroom.</li> <li>• Contact your health care provider immediately if you experience severe symptoms.</li> </ul>