



WATERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 14-4
Office of the Superintendent
P.O. Box 730 Watertown, SD 57201-0730
605-882-6312

Dr. Jeff Daniels
Superintendent
Jeff.Danielsen@k12.sd.us

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2022

Scenario 2022 START UP: Continuation of in-person school with as much normalcy as possible, with enhanced safety precautions as needed based on the status of the pandemic. Accommodations to health and safety policies will be made on an individual basis to ensure all students including students with disability have access to instruction and district services.

Continued communication will be essential to protect the safety and well-being of all. Families, students and staff are expected to take personal responsibility for their health and well-being, with continued enhanced hygiene practices and self-monitoring of symptoms.

START UP expectations include:

- Cloth face coverings are optional for all employees and students of the district.
- All staff and students follow close contact procedures as outlined by the district.
- Arrange classroom seating to provide spacing as feasible, with seating charts to be maintained.
- Cohort groups will be allowed to move throughout the building, with seating charts to be maintained in each space.
- Common areas will be open before and after school. Congregating may occur; students are reminded to maintain spacing as feasible.
- Visitors will be allowed. External groups will be allowed to utilize facilities.
- Lunch and breakfast seating will be maintained by classrooms, where feasible.
- Allow self-service food or beverage distribution in the cafeteria and self-entry of lunch numbers, with sanitizing stations established.
- Families who are uncomfortable with school transportation are encouraged to transport their own child(ren).
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment.
 - Positive Case in Classroom/Building – deep cleaning protocol of regularly touched surfaces.
- Increase sanitation efforts and limit sharing of electronic devices, books, toys, and other games or learning aids, where feasible.
- Have students keep personal items in individually labeled cubbies, containers, desks, or lockers.
- Educate staff, students, and families about COVID protocols as needed. Specifically to include teaching and encouraging proper handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes.
- The Watertown School District recognizes the impacts of COVID on the well being of our students and staff. Counselor support will be provided to all levels of learners and staff are encouraged to participate in the District Employee Assistance Program.
- The Watertown School District will continue to work with local and regional health officials regarding vaccination opportunities for district holders and will communicate with stakeholders about the opportunity to receive information regarding the vaccinations.

School Board Approval 8-8-2022
Last Review 12-12-2022

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021

Scenario 2021 START UP: Continuation of in-person school with as much normalcy as possible, with enhanced safety precautions as needed based on the status of the pandemic. Accommodations to health and safety policies will be made on an individual basis to ensure all students including students with disability have access to instruction and district services.

Continued communication will be essential to protect the safety and well-being of all. Families, students and staff are expected to take personal responsibility for their health and well-being, with continued enhanced hygiene practices and self-monitoring of symptoms.

START UP expectations include:

- Cloth face coverings are optional for all employees and students of the district.
- All staff and students follow close contact procedures as outlined by the district.
- Arrange classroom seating to provide spacing as feasible, with seating charts to be maintained.
- Cohort groups will be allowed to move throughout the building, with seating charts to be maintained in each space.
- Common areas will be open before and after school. Congregating may occur; students are reminded to maintain spacing as feasible.
- Visitors will be allowed, with screening through the office. External groups will be allowed to utilize facilities.
- Lunch and breakfast seating will be maintained by classrooms, where feasible.
- Allow self-service food or beverage distribution in the cafeteria and self-entry of lunch numbers, with sanitizing stations established.
- Families who are uncomfortable with school transportation are encouraged to transport their own child(ren).
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment.
 - Positive Case in Classroom/Building – deep cleaning protocol of regularly touched surfaces.
- Increase sanitation efforts and limit sharing of electronic devices, books, toys, and other games or learning aids, where feasible.
- Have students keep personal items in individually labeled cubbies, containers, desks, or lockers.
- Educate staff, students, and families about COVID protocols as needed. Specifically to include teaching and encouraging proper handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes.
- The Watertown School District recognizes the impacts of COVID on the welling of our students and staff. Counselor support will be provided to all levels of learners and staff are encouraged to participate in the District Employee Assistance Program.
- The Watertown School District will continue to work with local and regional health officials regarding vaccination opportunities for district holders and will communicate with stakeholders about the opportunity to receive information regarding the vaccinations.

School Board Approval 8-9-2021
Last Review 10-1-2021
Last Review 12-13-2021
Last Review 6-13-2022

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2020

Scenario 1: Onsite – In Person: Continuation of school with enhanced safety precautions. Modifications for families to allow us to better meet the needs of medically vulnerable students and families with a higher risk of severe illness.

Scenario 2: Hybrid Plan: This would be a combination of distance and face-to-face instruction with increased safety and disinfecting measures. This plan would only be enacted if state and local mandates require the maintenance of a six feet social distance to limit the number of people in groups.

Scenario 3: Online/Distance Learning Plan: All students would participate in the learning of new material, continued standard pacing, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments. This would be enacted if it is necessary to close schools again. If we have outbreaks of COVID-19 in specific schools, we may enact individual school closures instead of district wide closures.

This guidance document is organized into sections by topic, and within each section the planning elements are further separated into required practices for each planning scenario.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MINIMIZING EXPOSURE

Creating as much space between individuals as possible during the day, recognizing that it is not always feasible to have 6 feet of social distancing during primary instruction time in the classroom.

Requirements: Scenario 1 and 2:

- Arrange classroom seating to provide spacing as feasible and turn desks to face in the same direction.
- Students stay with cohort groups with teachers moving as feasible.
- School lunch and breakfast to stagger with additional seating. Intent to face same direction. Seating at tables by classroom, where feasible.
- Mark 6 feet of spacing to remind students and staff to always stay 6 feet apart in lines.
- Staff will monitor arrival and dismissal to curtail congregating.
- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups will be restricted.
- Discontinue self-service food or beverage distribution in the cafeteria. Lunch numbers to be entered by employees.
- Families who are uncomfortable with school transportation are encouraged to transport their own child(ren).

Additional Requirements: Scenario 2:

- Limit the number of people in school facilities and on transportation to ensure proper 6 feet social distancing.
- Implement contactless pick up of meals and school materials for days that students are not in school building.
- Implement a school-age care program where necessary.

CLOTH FACE COVERINGS AND FACE SHIELD

As of October 5, 2020, all staff and students of the Watertown School District are expected to wear cloth face coverings. The District will provide a cloth face covering to all students and employees. Employees of the District will wear face coverings in all situations where 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained.

Requirements: Scenario 1 and 2:

- Employees and students of the District are expected to wear cloth face coverings in classrooms, hallways and all communal spaces.
- All staff and students follow close contact procedures as outlined by the district.
- Educate students on the importance of masking in areas such as buses, hallways, and in open communal spaces and in the classroom when unable to maintain a 6 foot distance.
- Bus drivers will wear cloth face coverings while transporting students.

HYGIENE PRACTICES

Requirements: Scenario 1 and 2:

- Establish a schedule for routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment.
 - Positive Case in Classroom/Building – deep cleaning protocol of regularly touched surfaces.
- Ensure adequate supplies are maintained.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, books, toys, and other games or learning aids when possible.
- Have students keep personal items in individually labeled cubbies, containers, desks, or lockers.

MONITORING AND EXCLUDING FOR ILLNESS

Regular screening for symptoms and on-going self-monitoring throughout the school day can help to quickly identify signs of illness and help reduce exposure. Staff and students should be encouraged to self-monitor symptoms throughout the day. Staff or students who develop symptoms during the school day must notify school health services immediately.

Requirements: Scenario 1 and 2:

- Educate staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and when they/their children should stay home and when they can return to school.
- Educate staff, students, and families on the importance of conducting self-checks before coming to school.
- Follow Watertown School District guidelines on positive cases and close contact situations.

HANDLING SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASES

- Inform employees on how to self-report cases as well as how to report to building administration any student cases in which they may become aware.
 - The WSD central office will handle all formal communications to parents regarding confirmed cases.
 - Buildings will handle communications to parents regarding close contacts with confirmed cases.
- Post signage at main entrance(s) requesting that people who have been symptomatic not enter the building.
- It is not required for students or staff members to have documentation of a negative viral test or a letter certifying release from isolation in order to return to school, but they must follow recommended guidance regarding when to return to school.
- Establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals who are waiting to go home. Distinguish this space from areas where student health services will be delivered to those who are well and need routine care.
- Individuals with two temperature readings of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home and may only return to school after 48 hours of no symptoms without medications.