

Newell School District Back to School Plan

Mission Statement

Newell School District wants students and community members to be safe from communicable diseases such as Covid-19. We believe that our environment at school gives students the best chance to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. We will need a group effort from parents/guardian(s), school personnel, and students to make school a safe environment for learning.

Back to School committee members:

Mr. Fergen-Superintendent, Mr. Schoenfish-K-12th Principal/AD, Mrs. Muckridge- Technology coordinator and director of student services, Mrs. Mullaney-Special education director, Mrs. Burtzlaff- High School science teacher, Mrs. McCann-Middle School math teacher, Mr. Sanderson-5th grade teacher, Mr. Weeldreyer-Director of transportation and maintenance, Mrs. Morell-Food Service Director, Mr. Bonnet- School board member, Mr. Huntington-Public Health Region Director.

*When remote learning, 14 days= 14 calendar days

Parent Expectation

- Parents are important to helping the school environment safe for students.
- The Newell School District recommends that parent(s)/guardian(s) check students' temperature daily and that their student feels well prior to going to school in order to prevent prolonged remote at home learning.
 - If a student has a fever over 100.4, the CDC recommends students stay home for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>).
- Make sure that your child(ren) practice good hygiene skills such as washing their hands after using the restroom and touching surfaces that have been touched by other individuals.
- Make sure that your child(ren) properly hydrated themselves throughout the day.
- Please have your students bring a sanitized water container daily to ensure proper hydration.
- Parents/guardian(s) and other visitors are not allowed in the building during school hours. (which includes first day drop off)
- Parents/guardian(s) and community members should use hand sanitizer when coming into the building for extra-curricular activities and other school functions such as parent/teacher conferences. Sanitizer stations will be provided at school entrances for these events.
- Parents/guardians will discuss the back to school plan with their child(ren).

Students expectation

- Students need to practice good hygiene practice such as sanitizing hands before entering classroom, while entering and exiting restrooms, before and after recess(es), before and after eating, and before and after sporting practice/competitions.

- Students have the option to wear a mask to school, but it is not mandated.
- Social distance yourself as much as you can on school buses, classrooms, cafeterias, and other rooms throughout the school.
- Stay with your class as much as you can throughout the school day.
- Students will sit in their teacher assigned seat for ease of contact tracing.
- Students will report to the central office in their appropriate building (K-8 Mrs. Dirk's office and 9-12th Mrs. Lamphere's office) if they are late to school for an appointment or any other reason. Students will have their temperatures checked by office personnel and students will be responsible to get temperature and health check results to homeroom teacher by the end of the school day.
- Students who go off campus for lunch or other reasons will be expected to sanitize hands upon entrance.
- Students will only be able to use refill stations for water. They will not be able drink directly from the fountains.

School District Personnel Expectations

- Newell School District personnel will check temperatures of themselves daily and will model good hygiene.
- Newell School District personnel will create an environment in school that will reduce the spread of germs.
- Newell School District personnel will educate students on proper health etiquette throughout the year.
- Newell School District will socially distance students as much as possible throughout the school day.
- Teachers and bus drivers will have assigned seats for each class period for ease of contact tracing.

Safety Protocol and procedures by school personnel

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will not be allowed in the school building during the day. Children will be met at school entry points by school personnel.
- Students will load buses from the back first and unload from the front of the bus. Students can only sit in the same seat with people that live in the same household.
- School doors will open at 7:30 am.
- Students will have access to breakfast from 7:30 am-8:00 am daily.
- If students do not want breakfast, they will be supervised in the following areas:
 - K-5-Recess area on the east side of the elementary building
 - Students will have assigned areas for all recesses throughout the day.
 - Preschool students will not have the option to attend morning recess. They can eat breakfast or go to their classroom.
 - 6-8th-Middle school gym, assigned homeroom, or teacher classroom from whom you need assistance.
 - 9-12th- assigned homeroom class or teacher classroom from whom you need assistance.
- Students will be socially distanced as much as possible in the classroom.
- All students will have their temperatures taken during a homeroom period starting at 8:00 am.
 - This period will give staff and students time to discuss safety protocol.
- Surfaces that are touched by students will be sanitized daily by school personnel.

- Hand sanitizer stations will be found throughout the buildings and will include stations between classrooms, at entrances into the buildings, in front of bathrooms, and in the lunchroom. These stations are for the student's usage throughout the day.
- Students will not share supplies in the classroom.
- Preschool students will meet their rides outside the west doors in the elementary. School personnel will help students to this destination.
- School transportation will be sanitized by school personnel every time it is used.
- Students will be released in intervals to eat as a class during lunch. Students will be seated in tables for lunch with their classmates.
 - K 10:50 to 11:15
 - 1 11:00 to 11:25
 - 2 11:10 to 11:35
 - 3 11:20 to 11:45
 - 4 11:30 to 11:50
 - 5 11:40 to 12:00
 - Grades 6-8 12:05 to 12:30
 - Grades 9-12 12:30 to 1:00
- Students will have five minutes between all classes and will need to follow signage in buildings for transitions.

Fever Protocol in School

- If a student has a fever of over 100.4 in the school, student will be expected to wear a mask provided by the teacher. Teacher will call office to notify of student arrival.
 1. PreK-8 report to middle school office
 2. 9-12 report to the high school office
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by office staff that the student has a temperature and will need to get the student as soon as possible.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will buzz into the central office for their child's building to notify the school personnel they are here to pick up their child. The parent(s)/guardian will wait outside while the student exits the school at the entrance where their parent(s)/guardian(s) are present.

Phases for Instruction

Administration and the Newell Board of Education will use data from local hospitals, county health personnel, South Dakota Department of Health, Center for Disease Control (CDC), and South Dakota Department of Education to decide the education phase for the Newell School District. Please note that this process is an ongoing process throughout the school year.

1. Phase one- Traditional learning with safety procedures in place while preparing parents and students for possible remote learning.
2. Phase two- Remote learning for a student(s) that has tested positive for Covid-19 or a member of the student's family tested positive for Covid-19. Students that have been in contact with student that tested positive for Covid-19 will be recommended to do remote learning. The student that tested positive for Covid-19 or has a family member with a positive Covid-19 test, will do remote learning for 14 days. Rooms that have had positive case Covid-19 will be blocked off for 24 hours and thoroughly cleaned afterwards due to DOH recommendations.

- After 14 days, students can come back to traditional learning as long as they are symptom free (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>).
3. Phase three- Remotes learning for all students due to multiple positive Covid-19 cases. Students that have been in contact with student that tested positive for Covid-19 will be recommended to do remote learning. The student that tested positive for Covid-19 will do remote learning for 14 days. Rooms that have had positive case Covid-19 will be blocked off for 24 hours and thoroughly cleaned afterwards due to DOH recommendations.
 1. If multiple students with a positive Covid-19 test are in one building such as the high school, middle school, or elementary school, we will deep clean the school for a week and students in that school will do remote learning for a week.
 4. After 14 days, students can come back to traditional learning as long as they are symptom free (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>).
 5. Remote learning will take place in phase two or three if ten community members have tested positive for Covid-19. This phase of remote learning has discretion from the school board and administration with guidance from the South Dakota Department of Health.

Remote Learning Expectation

- Students attendance times are suggested from 8:00am-3:45pm.
- If the student is sick the parent will contact the school.
- Teachers will have instruction and assessment each period daily.
- Students will communicate with the teacher.
- Teachers will be available via google suites and K12 email.

Positive Covid-19 test

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified if their student has been in contact with an individual with a positive Covid-19 test.
 - These students will receive remote education instruction for 14 days as well.

This is a living document that is subject to change based on the Covid-19 pandemic to the region and the state. The Newell Board of Education along with administration, South Dakota Department of Health, and the South Dakota Department of Education will work together to adapt this document throughout the school year.

Board Approved Monday July 13th

Updated September 28th