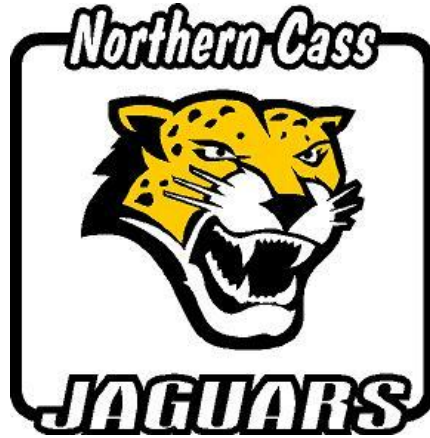


Return to Learn Plan



Northern Cass's Reopening Plan Guiding Principles

Accountability: Ensuring safety & well-being of all learners, educators, and parents/guardians

Communication: Maintaining transparent & timely updates for all stakeholders

Adaptability: Creating a flexible system, providing multiple learning opportunities & emphasizing academic and social emotional needs

Leadership: Challenging learners, staff and parents to lead themselves and others through an unpredictable future

Learner's Mindset: Monitoring & self-reflecting to maintain our world class education standard

School Board Approved as of February 9, 2022

School Board Revised - 8/11/2022

The Board of Education reserves the right upon the recommendation from administration to change the academic plan when conditions dictate.

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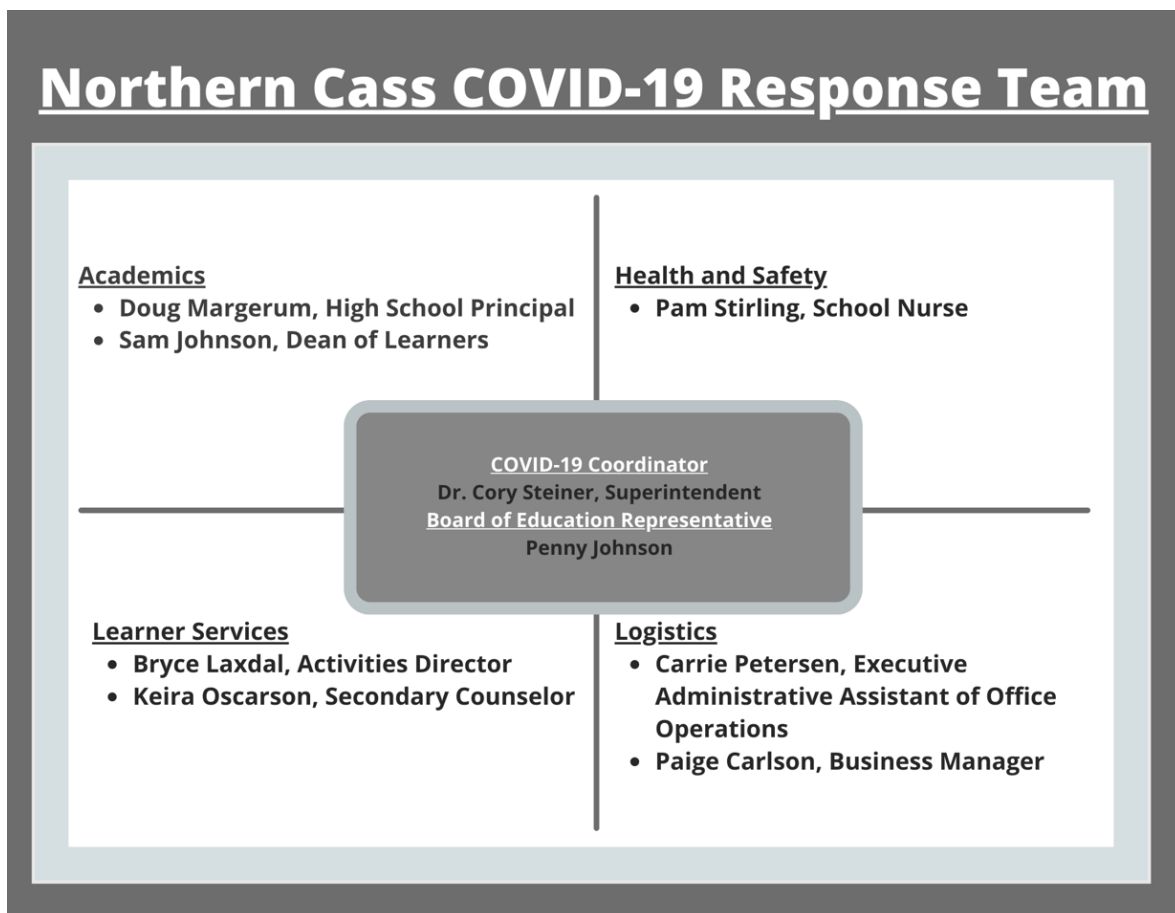
Introduction

On July 14, 2020, North Dakota school districts were required to develop a health and safety plan and a distance learning plan for the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These plans required approval by the School Board prior to the start of classes. The Northern Cass School Board approved the Health & Safety Restart Plan at a Special Board Meeting on August 5, 2020. The Northern Cass Public School Plan was based on recommendations and guidelines from city, county, state, and national health organizations, public education agencies, and government officials. Further input and feedback were gathered from staff and parents through online surveys and a series of virtual work sessions.

This plan describes how Northern Cass Public School will maintain the health and safety of learners, educators, and other district staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. Questions about this plan should be directed to Dr. Cory Steiner at (701)874-2322.

Based on the successful implementation of mitigation strategies within Northern Cass Public School and the community, along with the wide-spread availability of the COVID-19 vaccination, the threat of COVID-19 was drastically reduced in the spring of 2021. The Northern Cass School Board moved to end the Health & Safety Restart Plan at the end of 2020-2021 school year, May 27, 2021. This document is the Return to Learn Plan which is required to receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Funds.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act included the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Funds which are to be used to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's learners by addressing learners' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.



Learning Options for 2022-2023 School Year

Building Face to Face	Northern Cass will return to learning five days a week from 8:30 to 3:30 each day. All learning will take place face-to-face. There will be no distance learning or virtual academy options.
Distance Learning	This is a learning option which applies to learners who can't attend school on a regular basis due to a medical condition (medical note necessary) which limits their ability to attend in another pathway. This could be an option for all learners depending on the conditions of the district.

The health and safety of our learners, educators, and families are a top priority for reopening. The following guidelines and procedures have been developed in consultation with our local public and private health care officials.

- Northern Cass utilized the following information to build their plan:
 - Building layout
 - Number of learners who attend
 - Number of learners who request busing
 - Number of learners who utilize hot lunch
 - Survey results from parents/guardians, staff, and learners
 - Guidelines from the North Dakota Department of Health
 - Guidelines from Fargo Cass Public Health

What do you need to know about our academic plan?

- All learners in the building 5 days a week 8:30-3:30.
- Learners switch rooms for departmentalized classes in the elementary and all classes at the secondary level.
- Visitors allowed.
- Recess on the playground, weather permitting.

What do you need to know about our plan when there is a positive COVID-19 test?

Masks	Masks will be the choice of individual families on whether they or their learner wears masks on school property.
Diagnostic and Screening Testing	Northern Cass will complete COVID-19 testing upon request.
If You Test Positive for COVID-19	<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic - Stay home for 5 days from the onset of symptoms or for 5 days from the date of a positive test (not notification date), whichever comes first. • Asymptomatic - Stay home for 5 days from the date of a positive test (not notification date). • Recommend wearing a mask around others for 5 additional days.
Exposed to Someone with COVID-19	If exposed and have symptoms, stay home.
Absences	Parents/guardians are encouraged to complete an at-home survey (See Appendix 'A') if their learner(s) has any of the symptoms.

What do you need to know about operational plans for maintaining health & safety?

General Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain awareness of health guidelines including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Routine washing of hands. ○ Stay home when sick. ○ Cover your cough. ○ Continue education on staying healthy. ○ Monitor for illness and outbreaks.
Protocol for Sanitizing the Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All spaces in the building will be cleaned on a regular basis. • Learning Center educators will be provided additional supplies to disinfect learning centers, gyms, cafeterias, weight rooms, and locker rooms.
Transportation information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses will be cleaned on a regular basis.
Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables will be cleaned between shifts of learners in the lunchroom.

What other pertinent information do you need to know about general operations?

Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A learner may not visit Nurse Pam Stirling's office without permission.
Educator Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an educator is exposed to a positive COVID-19 case outside of the building, they may return to work as long as they are not exhibiting any symptoms. If they choose not to attend school, they may take sick leave. • Educators must have a doctor's note and medical release in order to be approved for leave beyond their contract.

What do you need to know about training that will be offered for maintaining health & safety?

Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse Pam Stirling will provide ongoing training on safety and hygiene • Educators will teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes with learners. • Weekly communications will be posted on the school website.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI Resources • NDDoH Resources • CDC Resources • COVID-19 Decision Tree

Additional Elements to Address Continuity of Services

Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district's NDSA assessment results from 2021-22 did not indicate learning loss from the previous years. However, the district will continue to focus on meeting each learner where they are at in their learning as part of the transformation to a personalized competency-based learning system. • The district has engaged in training to develop their MTSS-A framework which now includes intervention services for Tier II and III for all learners. The district has completed MTSS-B training (CHAMPS and Discipline at the Secondary) for all educators as well. • The district hired a new special educator starting in the 2022-2023 school year who will focus on learners with complex behaviors.
Social Emotional	<p>Learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A therapist is available to all learners three days a week. • Northern Cass will be using a social worker (in partnership with another local district) to provide wrap-around services for learners and their families. • The district employs full time counselors at the elementary and secondary level who focus on social emotional learning along with a Director of College, Career, and Life Readiness focuses on career experiences. <p>Educators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Cass has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through The Village which is available to all employees and allows for counseling services. • The district builds in professional learning linked to wellness.

APPENDIX A: Resources



Parents are asked to review this daily health checklist by answering these questions before sending their child to school. (Parents should not send the questionnaire back 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 a new or worsening cough?

Yes____ No____

Does your child have a fever of 100 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.