



Dell Rapids Public School

Return to Safe Learning (RTSL) 2022-2023

Dell Rapids Public School conducted in-person learning throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Although challenges from the COVID-19 virus instigated many changes, our students achieved the high levels our stakeholders have come to expect. As we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, our goal is to create a healthy learning environment coupled with the understanding that the social-emotional wellbeing of our students is as important as their academic learning. Consistent with the South Dakota Department of Education guidance, our plan will allow school leaders to take steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining a focus on student learning. To accomplish this, DRPS will *reasonably* implement guidance from various national and local health organizations.

The Dell Rapids Board of Education approved the initial RTSL plan on 10/11/2021. The plan will be reviewed at each regularly scheduled board meeting during the 2022-2023 school year. Questions can be submitted by email to: Summer.Schultz@k12.sd.us

*Last Reviewed, 08/08/2022

School Operations

Transportation:

DRPS has planned and budgeted for a full return to normal bus service operation. When appropriate, physical distancing will be implemented, and masks are recommended for unvaccinated individuals

- Adult family may transport their child to and from activities when requested (subject to coordination with advisors and/or coaches).
- Busses will be sanitized daily.
- When possible, windows will be down for air circulation.

Food Service:

DRPS and Lunchtime Solutions have planned for a full return to a normal foodservice operation.

- Students will be provided time to wash or sanitize hands before entering the serving line
- Social distancing will be to the greatest extent possible for each grade level.
 - If infection rates increase, alternative seating arrangements, locations, and staggering will be considered.
- When possible, individual packets may be used for condiments.
- One individual will be responsible for the check-out point of contact.

Facility Access:

- School district facilities may be available to outside clubs or organizations per district policy.
- Upon approval, visitors and volunteers may enter the schools.
 - District administration has the authority to monitor local infection rates and temporarily pause access accordingly.

Activities and Spectators:

Activities will return to full capacity, although the district will continuously monitor local infection rates and adjust accordingly.

Classroom Safety and Facility Cleaning:

To the fullest extent possible, student seating will allow for physical distancing.

Student belongings will be kept separated from others and in individual desks, cubbies, containers, etc.

Certain areas will have enhanced filtration systems and increased air intake. High touch-point areas will be frequently sanitized, and staff will have access to additional cleaning supplies upon request.

Testing / Exposure/ Communication

Testing Opportunities:

Two testing options will be available at no cost to staff and students. Parent permission is still necessary for students, and the district will individually determine the appropriate testing method.

Testing options include:

1. Diagnostic Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen
 - Symptomatic testing
2. Quidel QuickVue (OTC)
 - Can be administered at school or home.
 - Two tests need to be administered 24 hours apart
 - Symptomatic/asymptomatic testing

Vaccinations:

DRPS worked with Dell Rapids Avera Medical Clinic to host a COVID-19 vaccination clinic on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. 28 individuals participated.

School Exclusion:

Positive for COVID-19:

- Isolate for five days. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms (the test date is no longer used).
- If fever or other symptoms have not improved after five days of isolation, the individual should wait to end isolation until fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication and their other symptoms have improved.

Close Contacts & Quarantine:

DRPS will not make determinations of close contacts nor determine related quarantine protocols. This determination will be at the discretion of the South Dakota Department of Health or another medical professional. The South Dakota Department of Health has statutory authority to isolate sick individuals. Only individuals who test positive or exhibit fevers will be excluded from school.

Communication:

DRPS will not communicate individual cases.

Local and state trend data will be shared with parents when it directly impacts the district's mitigation efforts. Our local health partners will supply this data, and the superintendent will concur with a local infectious disease expert before reviewing the RTSL document at regularly scheduled board meetings.

Other

Hygiene:

Enhanced hygiene education will continue. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands, and hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout district facilities.

Respiratory Etiquette:

Enhanced education surrounding proper respiratory etiquette will continue. Each building will display signage illustrating the most common areas (coughing/sneezing) surrounding respiratory-related etiquette.

Face Coverings/Masks:

Wearing of face coverings will remain voluntary unless local infection rates or legal requirements necessitate a change. Individuals who choose to wear masks will be encouraged to wear the mask appropriately (Appendix 1)

Academics:

We feel in-person learning offers the most favorable opportunities to provide instruction and targeted services for all students. It further allows us to closely monitor students identified as being disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional staff in the form of interventionist teachers and associates have been hired. Interventionists will monitor students' progress and provide intensive targeted support to students who are not achieving at grade level and do not receive special education services. Classroom teachers will work directly with these individuals to ensure a continuum of services is offered.

Mitigation plans should not directly affect students receiving special services. Communication between case managers and directors will offer frequent communication should possible changes have an adverse effect on student achievement.

Social and Emotional Health:

Each building has a full-time counselor to prioritize student needs. We understand each child has been impacted by the pandemic differently; therefore, individual services will be offered should a student's social and emotional needs warrant targeted assistance.

DRPS purchased an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) membership for all staff members. The EAP is a district-sponsored benefit that provides immediate, confidential, and free resources for employees and their families. The EAP helps people address personal and work-related issues away from work, so they can be more present, focused, and productive at work.

DRPS has also purchased a family coaching program through the Cook Center. All district families are eligible to receive services through this program.

Activities:

[SDHSAA Return to Play](#) protocols will be followed. Asymptomatic or mild illness does not require a Return to Play appointment with a physician, however moderate to severe and cardiopulmonary symptoms do.

Appendix (1): Appropriate Mask Use

