

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024



Dupree School District 64-2

The mission of the Dupree School District, with the support of the students, parents, and community, is to enable students to become socially responsible citizens who are productive and competent lifelong learners by providing a positive, safe environment which offers innovative learning experiences, thus encouraging critical and creative thinking and respect for others in an ever-changing, culturally diverse world.

2020-2021 COVID-19 Reopening Plan approved July 27, 2020
2021-2022 Safe Return Plan reviewed August 9, 2021, and approved August 9, 2021
2021-2022 Safe Return Plan reviewed December 13, 2021, and approved December 13, 2021
2022-2023 Safe Return Plan reviewed June 13, 2022, and approved June 13, 2022
2022-23 Safe Return Plan amended September 12, 2022
2022-23 Safe Return Plan reviewed December 12, 2022
2023-2024 Safe Return Plan reviewed June 12, 2023, and approved June 12, 2023

This plan relies upon the guidance and recommendations of public health officials from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the South Dakota Department of Education (DOE), and the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH). Additional input for the plan was obtained from the Dupree School Board, teachers, staff members, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST), and patrons of the Dupree School District. The plan is subject to change as conditions warrant. Additionally, this plan will be regularly reviewed per ESSER requirements.

Questions about the content of this plan and policies outlined herein may contact Dr. Keith Fodness, Superintendent of the Dupree School District 64-2.

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This plan is accessible on the Dupree School District website at: www.dupree.k12.sd.us under the policies tab.

If you need special assistance with access to the document (language other than English or a disability), please contact the Dupree School District.

During the **2023-2024** school year, the Dupree School District will operate with efforts focused on maintaining the health and safety of its students, teachers, staff, and community. The following policies will be in effect.

Mask Wearing: Mask wearing is optional for all who enter the school building. Some may choose to wear a mask and are encouraged to do what they feel is best for their individual health and well-being. Masks will be available for those who plan to wear them.

Physical Distancing: Physical distancing will be maintained, to the extent possible, within the school building and school vehicles.

Handwashing Etiquette: All students and staff will be instructed and reminded to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. All will be reminded to wash hands frequently and assistance will be provided for young students.

Respiratory Etiquette: Covering coughs and sneezes can help prevent the spread of serious respiratory illnesses. All students and staff will be reminded to practice proper respiratory etiquette. The accepted practice is covering mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, dispose of used tissue properly, and cough or sneeze into elbow, not hands.

Cleaning of Facilities: The school facilities will be cleaned daily. Cleaning of high use and high-touch spots (door handles, light switches, etc.) will be a priority.

Maintaining Healthy Facilities: Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the building allowing easy access for students and staff. The air ducts in the school have been cleaned. To the extent possible, some learning activities may take place outdoors.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Special education staff, related service providers and general education teachers will continue to provide access, services, accommodations, and modifications as required by each IEP and ensure compliance with IDEA for our students with disabilities. All staff will focus on equity for students with disabilities and display an attitude of compassion and caring. There may be days when students with disabilities are not in the classroom. If so, teachers or paraprofessionals will meet virtually with students to provide direct specialized instruction and support.

Contact Tracing: The Dupree School District will work with Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) Field Health officials to identify and notify close contacts of COVID-19 positive individuals. Close Contact Definition – Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period unless the individual has been fully vaccinated and remains without symptoms.

Quarantine: Symptomatic close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 5 days. This means to stay home and avoid contact with others. Remote learning will occur for a student during the quarantine period. A close contact with no symptoms, may attend school, wear a mask, and social distance to the extent possible. Return to school after quarantine is allowed following a

negative COVID-19 test, lack of symptoms, or release from a healthcare provider. Additional Quarantine Exceptions: Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does NOT need to stay home: Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19, OR someone who has had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months, AND has recovered, AND remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath).

Isolation for Positive COVID-19 cases: Students or staff that test positive for COVID-19 will be asked to isolate for 5 days. Remote learning will occur for a student during the isolation period. After isolation, the student or staff may return when they are fever free without fever reducing medication for a 24-hour period.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing for COVID-19: Students and staff are advised to consult with their individual health care providers regarding the decision to be tested for COVID-19.

Vaccination Efforts: Students and staff from the Dupree School District are encouraged to consult with their individual health care providers regarding the decision to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The Dupree School District will not require COVID-19 vaccinations as a condition of enrollment or employment.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials: The Dupree School District will monitor information from the South Dakota (DOH) and the (CRST) Field Health officials for recommendations to further protect the health of students, staff, and community members.

The Dupree School District will strive to maintain continuity of educational services for all students.

Services to Address Academic Needs of Students: Commercially available assessments in reading, math, and science as well as classroom assessments will be used to determine individual student academic need. Staff and administration will meet regularly to discuss needs and determine the resources and supports students will receive. Efforts will be made to hire additional support staff to provide intensive and targeted tutoring for individual students and small groups in areas of identified need. Technology will be utilized to aid student learning at home, if necessary. Teachers will have resources to facilitate learning experiences for all children utilizing remote learning. Teachers and students utilize Google Classroom to facilitate communication and collaboration.

Services to Address Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs of Students: School counselors will be available to students as needed throughout the day. School counselors will provide age-appropriate activities in the classroom to address the special needs of all students impacted by COVID-19.

Services to Address Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs of Staff: School counselors will make special efforts to accommodate the needs of staff. Staff members will be encouraged to utilize the valuable services provided by the school counseling staff.

Food Services: Nutritious meals at school support health and well-being for students. Meals will be offered in an environment that promotes social distancing and appropriate personal hygiene practices. Kitchen staff will adhere to food safety standards when preparing and serving meals to students and staff. Meals for students may be provided if school is closed for more than five days.

Student Health Needs: Staff and students will self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath. If a student or staff member develops symptoms, while at school, he/she must notify a school administrator immediately. Parents should verify that their children are symptom free each day or the child must stay home to protect the health of the community.

Daily Home Screening for Students

Check for the following, and if your child has one or more of the symptoms listed in Section 1, please keep them home.

Section 1

-A temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken orally, 100.9 when taken by ear, and 99.9 when taken on forehead

-Sore throat

-New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)

-Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain

-New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Check your child's status regarding the questions in Section 2.

Section 2

-Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19

-Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases

-Live in areas of high community transmission while the school remains open

If you answer YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2, your child should be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider.