Parker School District
Start Well Return to Learn
COVID-19 Plan

AS OF December 11, 2023, THE PARKER SCHOOL DISTRICT IS OPERATING IN LEVEL 0.

- Masks are voluntary.
- The school district will no longer be contract tracing for quarantine purposes.
- The school district will communicate with parents of students that may have been exposed in classroom.
- The school district will not be requiring the Covid-19 vaccine for staff or students.

Reviewed during School Board meetings, the second Monday of each month.

This document was created by the following committee members:

- Parker Admin Team: Dr. Donavan DeBoer, Janelle Johnson (primary contact person), John Silvernail, Marci Leberman, Jim Vogel, Teresa Larson, Jennifer Becker, Rhonda Ross, and Darmi Vogel
- Parker Accountability Team: Jackie Lackas, Jacey Peters, Derrek Sattler
- Parker Return to Learn Community Members: Ransom Jones, Chris Poncelet, Deb Hauger, Max Masters, Colter Hendrix, Jason Schulte, Tami Berens, Chrystal Schulte

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Student Encouragement and Thank You

We realize the uncertainties that exist while we all work to navigate the waters of Covid-19 and the daily changes this pandemic brings to us all.

We ask that you are mindful when speaking or referencing remote learning in and around your child(ren). *ICT Learn* stated it well when they posted the following message, "Our behavior and mannerisms will determine our child's attitude during this time. It is suggested that adults be angry or sad in private. Discuss frustrations away from the kids. We can set our kids up for success by teaching them to make the best of life's situations. Be a sounding board for student worries and disappointments. Stay positive and model perseverance." We are all in this together, we can overcome hiccups and will do so with integrity and grit.

A sincere thank you is expressed for the patience and flexibility of all families, students, staff, and community members as we tread these uncertain times. This process is new for us all and will take some creative thinking and fluidity of all involved to make this a stress free, successful school year for staff, students, and their families.

Safe Return Information:

- Date of first public review – August 3, 2021; meeting was open to the public
- Date of original school board plan approval - August 9, 2021
- Further review of the Parker School District's Return to Learn document will take place during scheduled Board meetings, the second Monday of each month.
- Contact person for questions – Janelle Johnson

Introduction

The Parker School District has created a plan with our Back to School Start Well Committee to create a safe, caring, and learning environment while reducing the impact of COVID-19 for students, staff, and community/visitors. The guidelines referenced in this plan are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), South Dakota Department of Health (S.D. DOH), and the South Dakota Department of Education (S.D. DOE). The plan will be updated regularly as new information comes in from the CDC, WHO, and applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

The goal of the Parker School District is to start school as scheduled per the District's calendar, with all students in the school building. The Back to School Start Well Committee created a Leveled system approach for our students, staff, and community's safety. The leveled approach will be enacted based on the number of cases we have locally and through guidance from the South Dakota Department of Health and our local health care system. Advice will be provided by the South Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Department of Education, the America Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and local health care providers to determine if school will have to occur via Flex Learning or Remote learning based on our local community cases.

The AAP strongly advocates that, depending on the extent of COVID-19 outbreaks within the community, children be physically present in school this academic year. As pediatricians they know the importance of in-person learning and have seen the negative consequences in their patients this past spring when school was delivered via an online platform.

The Parker School District's main goal is to have students in class, participating in traditional face-to-face lessons. The School District has created a resources page for families to access that will walk them through the programs expected of students for remote learning **if** the need arises. The resource page will be released to students and families at a later date and time, upon need for distance learning.

The most critical component of our Return to Learn plan is a cooperative partnership with parents/guardians, staff, and students, where individuals commit to:

1. Stay home if sick and use our remote learning option when needed.
2. Practice good hygiene.
3. Practice social distancing when possible (3ft) and wear face coverings in common areas or when social distancing is not possible.
4. Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
    - The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.
        - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use.
5. The Parker School District does not provide Covid-19 testing in building.

Parent assistance and best judgement is a critical part in our school staying open as families are asked to screen students each morning and make a responsible decision to keep their child home when they are feeling sick.

Students with disabilities may be the most affected students due to the learning loss from the Covid19 pandemic. Many households decided to forgo services during remote learning, others may not have had the same success remotely as they did in person.

We will use our dollars for learning loss to add an additional special education teacher, which will lower caseloads for our current special education staff. It will allow the entire staff to give more time to developing what Marzano and Hattie agree are the 8 most scientifically based strategies that affect student learning:

1. A clear focus for the lesson
2. Overt instruction
3. Student engagement with content
4. Give feedback
5. Multiple exposure to material
6. Application of knowledge
7. Collaboration for student activity

Covid-19 Vaccinations (page 13 contains frequency asked questions regarding vaccines for children)

- If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did before the pandemic without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance.
- Members of your family who are unvaccinated, have weakened immune systems, or underlying medical conditions need to continue to take steps to protect themselves from COVID-19.

In general, people are considered fully vaccinated: [±]

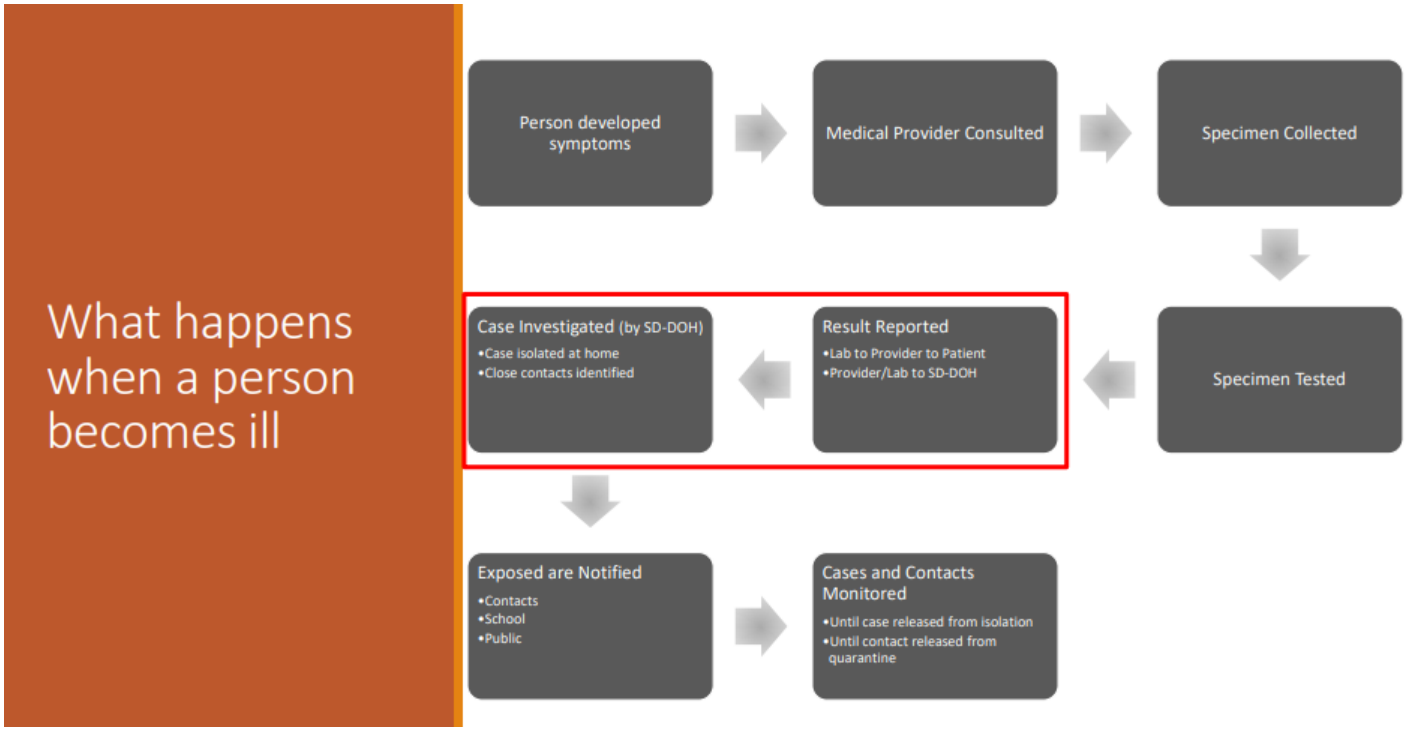
- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated.

If you are vaccinated and are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.

The Parker School District will only know you are vaccinated if you voluntarily provide the information.

Identifying Cases in School Questions and Answers (*SD Department of Education and the SD DOH K12 & Covid-19 Document*)



Household Members Test Positive

Assuming the infected individual did not enter the school, this would not be considered a confirmed case in the school. The student or staff member who lives with the infected individual would be considered a close contact and would be asked to self-quarantine for 5 days.

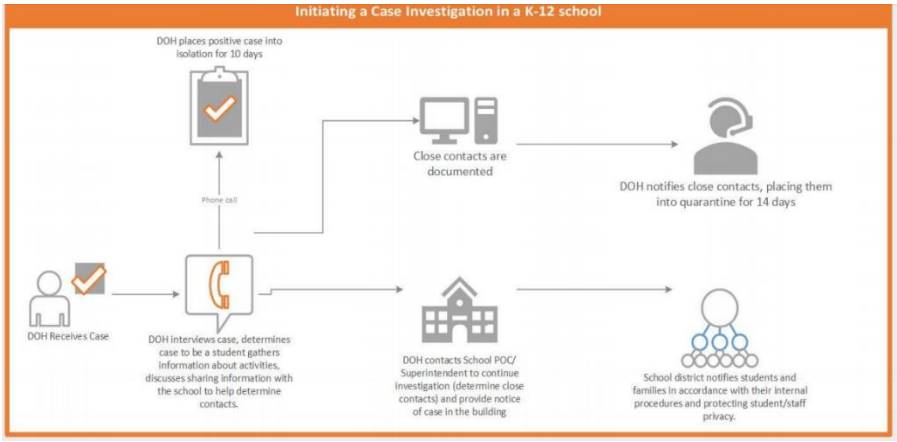
One Student in a Classroom Tests Positive

Each positive case within a classroom will be investigated to determine if other students/staff are close contacts (The CDC defines a close contact as any individual who was within 3 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection until the time the patient is

isolated.) Close contacts will be notified and will need to complete a 5-day quarantine period to monitor for symptoms.

Close Contact and Positive Case Notification

DOH will alert a school any time one of their students becomes a **positive case**. Through conversation with an infected individual (or a student's parent/guardian), DOH will work to identify close contacts, including school close contacts. **DOH will notify close contacts of potential exposure** and direct the individual to self-quarantine for 5 days from the last exposure. Close contacts will receive a written notification from DOH at the beginning of their quarantine period specifying their completion date for quarantine. If an individual becomes symptomatic and tests positive during their quarantine, they will begin a 5-day isolation period from the date of their symptom onset.



Notification in the Middle of the School Day

DOH would not recommend school closure mid-day. Dismissal at the end-of-day is appropriate. Currently, CDC recommends waiting 24 hours, if feasible, before cleaning and disinfecting an affected area. Reinforce the importance of mitigation strategies such as social distancing, hand washing, symptom screening, cloth face coverings, etc.

DOH Delay in School Notification Process

For close contact, **DOH alerts individuals directly**. It is up to the individual identified as the close contact to let the school know of this status. For a positive case, DOH will contact the school. An individual may receive notification of a positive case from their healthcare provider sooner than the DOH receives notification of the case. It would be advisable for the school to excuse based on the report from the parent, as DOH notification may be delayed.

In the event of another mass outbreak, staff members will be expected to have classroom AND lunch seating charts as well as copies of classroom schedules readily available and stored in the Office Covid-19 Classroom Communication Google File for the office staff to quickly be able to communicate with the S.D. DOH when they call inquire about specific cases.

Violation of Public Health Order

The school should work through the DOH person working the case to obtain a public health order. If the child continues to come to school after testing positive for Covid-19 they will be in violation of the public health order, the school may notify their local law enforcement.

We encourage staff and students to stay home if they are feeling ill or have symptoms, regardless of if it is Covid-19 related or not. In the event of another mass outbreak, all classes will be live streamed providing students with access to the remote learning platform even if they are home

for one day at a time due to illness or uncertainty of coming to school if they have symptoms and are in fear of infecting others.

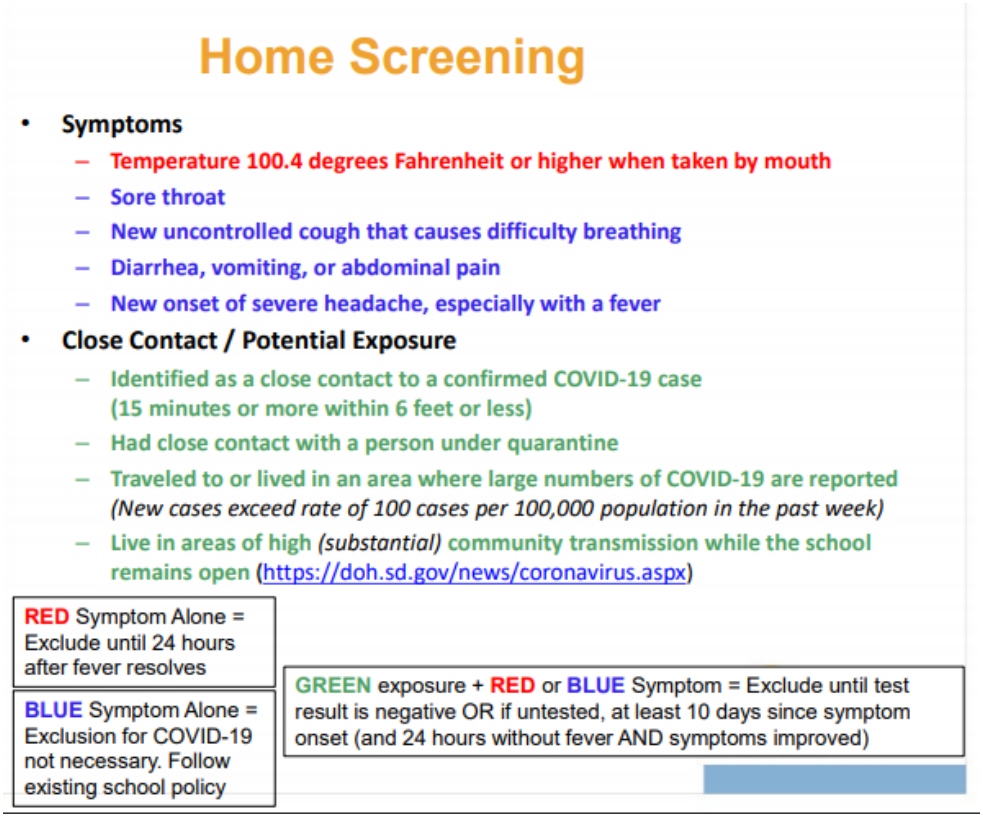
Returning to School After A Quarantine Period

The Department of Health will alert the school of any student or staff member who has tested positive. The S.D. DOH will not alert the school when an individual is released from isolation or quarantine. S.D. DOH will provide a letter to positive cases who complete their isolation period indicating they can return to school. The S.D. DOH will also provide a letter to the close contacts at the beginning of their quarantine period which will identify the completion date for quarantine. **Parents will be responsible to provide these letters to the school.**

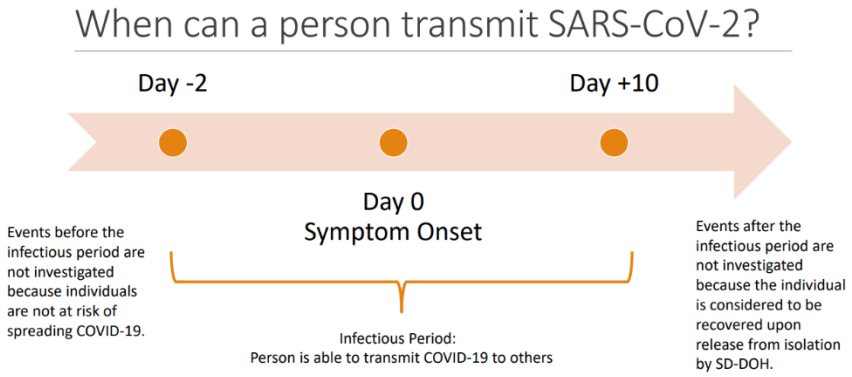
Safety of Students, Staff, and Community/Visitors

Students

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are the first line of defense in assisting schools with identifying students who have a temperature above 100.4 degrees and/or are ill. The Parker School District is asking parent(s)/guardian(s) by referencing the symptom checklist at home before sending students to school. Any student, with a temperature above 100.4 degrees, will be asked to stay home for 24 hours**.**



Students who become ill during the school day will be sent to the main office, have their temperature checked, and be screened given the questions found within the symptom checklist above. The student will be given a mask, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted, and the student will be isolated in one of our private areas within the building until the student can be picked up.



Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Masks are recommended for students and staff. Parker School District cloth masks will be gifted to each student as soon as they are available. Disposable masks are available if needed. Families are asked to help launder the masks on a regular basis. Students and staff will be encouraged to wear masks responsibly when social distancing is not possible, without distractions to individual learning environments. Congested areas consist of common areas such as PE, Music, Hallways…

If a student struggles to wear his/her mask respectfully the Protocol for Face Masks will be implemented which states:

If a student continuously misuses their face covering:

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted
2. Parent(s)/guardian(s)/student will be given the option to either remain in school without their face covering, or the student will be sent home upon contact and permission of parent/guardian.

Staff

Staff members are encouraged to take their temperatures at home and reference the symptoms checklist upon entering the building each day. If a staff member has a temperature above 100.4 degrees, they must stay home until their temperature is below 100.4 degrees for 24 hours. Staff members are encouraged to wear masks in high traffic areas and while working closing with a student. Staff are also encouraged to practice social distancing throughout the school day as much as possible by maintaining a distance of 3 feet from students and staff members.

Community/Visitors

Community members and visitors will not be allowed into the classrooms or areas outside of the office areas during the school day. If community members or visitors want to come into the school, they need to be approved by the school administrator and adhere to the same screening and temperature checks as the students and staff. Visitors are encouraged to refrain from partaking in school lunch with their student(s) at this time.

Preventative Student Education

Students will have time in their school schedule to accommodate hand washing/hand sanitizing procedures during the school day. All classrooms and grade levels will have frequent sanitizing of shared areas after use by students and staff. Posters for correct hand washing and hand sanitizing procedures will be on display throughout the building.

General Disinfection Measures Protocol

Our goal is to establish and maintain a sanitary baseline throughout the school year. The site has been 100% disinfected and continues to be cleaned and disinfected daily. Please reference the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan* for a more detailed layout of our flexible Leveled process.

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the end of each use/day
Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and/or between use
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	At least 4 times a day
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	At the end of each use/day
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	At the end of each use/day; between groups

Bus Drivers/Bus Protocols

Bus drivers or custodial staff must disinfect the buses at a minimum:

1. After the morning route
2. After the afternoon route
3. Bus drivers will be encouraged to wear masks

Face masks are recommended on Parker School District busses for students. Students will have assigned seats and families will sit with each other on the bus. Bus windows will be opened when applicable to increase the movement of airflow on the bus.

Student Meals

Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will be served daily with individually wrapped condiments. Student lunch and recess periods will be staggered in efforts to lower the population in the cafeteria. Additional tables have been purchased and may be set-up in other areas to increase social distancing. Please reference the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan* for a more detailed layout of our flexible Leveled process.

Extracurricular Activities

SDHSAA and S.D. DOH guidelines will be followed for all extracurricular activities. Activities will be canceled if level 3 of the Parker Return to Learn Plan is in action due to student illness.

Activities will take place as scheduled if remote learning is activated for a period of time due to staff illness.

Spectators (staff, students, and families) are encouraged to wear masks while attending school events and visiting other schools. While participating in activities, students and staff will adhere to the home team's Covid-19 protocol and procedures.

Locker Rooms

While in locker rooms, students are to practice social distancing, which means attempting stay 3 feet from others as a normal practice. Eliminate contact with others, such as handshakes. Avoid touching surfaces touched by others to the extent feasible. Avoid anyone who is coughing, sneezing or appears to be sick. Masks are recommended in confined spaces.

Special Education

The Parker School District will continue to provide educational opportunities to the general student population during a school closure. The school will ensure students with disabilities also have equal access to the same opportunities, including Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Students with a disability can be provided special education and related services identified in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Plan), or a plan developed under Section 504.

"If a child with a disability is absent for an extended period of time because of a COVID-19 infection and the school remains open, then the IEP Team must determine whether the child is available for instruction and could benefit from homebound services such as online or virtual instruction, instructional telephone calls, and other curriculum-based instructional activities, to the extent available." (*SD DOE; Providing Services to Students with Disabilities*).

SD Department of Education's Guide for Special Education

Social Emotional Wellbeing of Students and Staff

The social and emotional well-being of students and staff is always a priority. The Parker School District staff will receive in-service training by our ACES Committee members on *Trauma and*

Returning to the Classroom after Remote Learning. The school district will continue to work with our mental health professionals, ACES Committee, and counselors to provide families and staff with up to date, accessible resources when needed. Staff will work with parent(s)/guardian(s) and students individually or in a group setting to assist with students' social and emotional wellbeing.

Staff Training

Our plan is to provide a more effective and efficient remote learning opportunity for students if the need arises. Staff members will utilize the *Learn from Home* landing page to communicate remote learning agendas/materials with students and families. Links to staff email, websites, Planbook, and classroom platforms such as Google Classroom will be located on the landing page for ease of access to remote learning material. Staff will be provided with in-depth training during in-service times at the start of the year.

Beginning of the School Day and End of the Day Procedures

While in level zero of the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan*, students will be allowed to play on the playground before school with doors opening no earlier than 7:40am for breakfast. If a move to level 1 of the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan* is needed, school doors will still open no earlier than 7:40am on school days. However, elementary students will immediately enter the building, wash their hands, and report to their classrooms in attempt to maintain social distance and accommodate the CDC and S.D. DOH guidelines.

Dismissal times will take place at various intervals at the end of the day to adhere to social distance protocols.

Explanation of Level System (click the link to view a detailed version of the *Parker Return to Learn Plan*)

The school district will enact the *Parker Return to Learn Plan* when cases of COVID occur within the community and the DOH has identified our area as a level 3 substantial spread. The administration will work with S.D. DOH and our local health care providers to determine the best course of action within our school district. If the number of cases increases, the school district will move over a level unless more prevention is needed, based on the advice from S.D. DOH and our local health care providers. The school district administration will decide on what level we will implement based on the number of cases in our area and the recommendation of S.D. DOH and our local health care providers.

Level 0: Low to moderate cases in spread amongst our community as identified by the DOH. S.D. DOH recommends school remains in sessions. Staff and students are to follow guidelines provided in the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan.* Masks are recommended for students and staff in common areas or while working in close proximity to one another.

Day-to-day school operations will take place as close to traditional as possible.

Level 1: Moderate to high cases identified in our community by the DOH. Meaning students/staff members have been identified as being in close contact of a positive Covid-19 case

outside of the school community. The S.D. DOH recommends school remains in session and to follow guidelines provided in the *Parker Return to Learn* plan.

Masks are recommended for students and staff in common areas or while working in close proximity to one another. Increased social distance will be used where applicable. Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will take place (see above).

Level 2: Very high level of positive cases identified by the DOH in the school and the community. Students/staff members have been identified as a positive Covid-19 case. S.D. DOH recommends that school officials reassess processes looking for gaps in prevention strategies. CDC and S.D. DOH will recommend closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (if feasible) before cleaning and disinfecting. S.D. DOH will contact school administration for further instruction and contact tracing information. S.D. DOH recommends that schools may stay open and follow guidelines provided in *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan and Process.*

Possible closures:

1. Same grades only
2. Wings of the school
3. Students only
4. K-6 only, or 7-12 only
5. 72-hour cleaning cycles
6. 14-day quarantine cycles

Students and staff may be required to wear a mask in situations administration deems necessary. Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will take place with the use of disposable products; trays and silverware (see above). If social distancing cannot occur, lunch services will be provided in the classroom. The administration may determine that some classes will eat in their classrooms if needed to try and adhere to social distancing recommendations from the CDC, WHO, and S.D. DOH. Staggered bus routes may take place to limit the number seating on the bus.

Level 3: If school closure is necessary because of severe risk or spread, we will follow the steps listed below.

Options for remote learning attendance:

1. All staff report to school, students do not; remote learning will be accessed through the Parker School District's *Learn from Home* landing page.
2. Facilities will be closed to everyone.

The Parker School District will remain in Level Three until positive cases have been determined to no longer be contagious, the amount of quarantine days have passed, no other positive cases have been covered and the S.D. DOH has been contacted for guidance and recommendations.

Academics and Home-Based Learning Expectations

When the school district determines, through advice from S.D. DOH and our local health system, the use of remote learning or students that have chosen remote learning, students are expected to have their materials done on time. That means during each "virtual" school day, a new lesson will be presented for the students. Students are expected to attend live online classes during their scheduled class time.

If reliable internet service is an issue for participating in online instruction, families can make accommodations by contacting the school offices.

Remote Learning Expectations

Remote learning will not be an option while in level 0. If the need arises due to an increasing amount of positive cases while in level 1 of the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan*, students may opt for face-to-face or remote learning instruction from home. Students selecting the remote learning format will be required to complete distance learning until the end of the current quarter. The model for receiving education, whether face-to-face or virtually will be reassessed after each quarter.

Students will also be expected to log into virtual class sessions following their individual course schedule given the first week of school or found within the DDN Campus portal.

If the Parker School District is in level 1 of the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan* before the start of the school year, families wishing to participate in distance learning are to notify the Parker School District by **August 10th**.

K-4 Remote Learning Format

When the Parker School District is in level four (remote learning instruction) students are expected to attend online classes according to the K-4 remote learning schedule.
Students opting to participate in Remote Learning vs face-to-face instructions, while in level 1 of the Return to Learn Plan, will commit to one full quarter at a time. Following each quarter, students will be given an opportunity to change their mode of instruction.

Everyone will use the same starting point to access Remote Learning materials:

1. Learn from Home Landing page
2. Click Class Information
3. Teachers will follow a similar K-4 Remote Learning Format similar to this example link.
4. A link to the Google Classroom or preferred teaching platform will be available at this location.

K-4 Grading Policy/Attendance/Instructional Hours

Students are to complete their assignments and be in attendance for each course whether they attend school in the face-to-face or virtual learning setting. The grading policy will remain the same and can be found in the student handbook. Students are determined to be truant if they are not completing their assignments (face-to-face or virtually) or if they do not schedule and attend their mandatory missing work appointment with their teachers.

The expectation is that schools will be able to meet the minimum hour requirements of SDCL 13-26-1, whether through face-to-face learning, remote learning, or some combination thereof. When calculating instructional hours, these remote learning days count the same as a day of instruction and should be recorded as such in the student information system.

K-4 Parent Updates

Parents will be notified of their student(s) progress by Friday of the current school week (could possibly fall on a Thursday).

K-4 Classes/Lesson Plans

All grade levels will access the *Learn from Home* landing page to collect material for the school day. The page will have links to provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) with a list of the teacher's classes or subjects that they teach. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) can click on each link for the daily lesson in their classroom. Each day will have the standard the student will learn, the video link for the class that day, and the assignment.

5-12 Remote Learning Format

Students opting to participate in Remote Learning vs face-to-face instructions, while in level 1 of the Return to Learn Plan, will commit to one full quarter at a time. Following each quarter, students will be given an opportunity to change their mode of instruction.

Students in grades 7-12 are expected to attend live online classes according to their scheduled class time if opting to participate in remote learning while in level 1.

Students in grades 5 and 6 will follow a remote learning schedule developed by their teachers.

Everyone will use the same starting point to access Remote Learning materials:

1. Learn from Home Landing page
2. Click Class Information
3. PlanBook
    a. A link to the Google Classroom or preferred teaching platform will be available at this location.

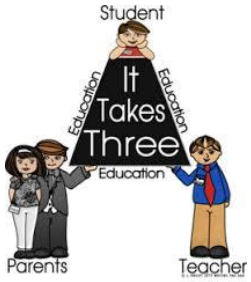
5-12 Grading Policy/Attendance/Instructional Hours

Students are to complete their assignments and be in attendance for each course whether they attend school in the face-to-face or virtual learning setting. Students in grades 9-12 must complete assignments and be in attendance to receive credit. The grading policy will remain the same and can be found in the student handbook. Students are determined to be truant if they are not completing their assignments (face-to-face or virtually) or if they do not schedule and attend their mandatory missing work appointment with their teachers.

The expectation is that schools will be able to meet the minimum hour requirements of SDCL 13-26-1, whether through face-to-face learning, remote learning, or some combination thereof. When calculating instructional hours, these remote learning days count the same as a day of instruction and should be recorded as such in the student information system.

5-12 Parent Communication

Students must complete their work in each class. Teachers will communicate grades/missing work via email grades 5 and 6. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) in grades 7-12 are to check their student(s) grades using DDN Campus. Parents will be notified of their student(s) missing work by Friday of the current school week (could possibly fall on a Thursday).



5-12 Classes/Lesson Plans

All grade levels will access the *Learn from Home* landing page to collect material for the school day. The page will have links to provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) with a list of the link for the daily lesson in their classroom. Each day will have the standard the student will learn, the video link for the class that day, and the assignment. Please allow teachers time to get these materials uploaded each day for your child(ren) as some videos will be posted after the recording of the first live class period.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- Will the Parker School District start on time?
  - Yes, the start date will correspond with the District calendar and classes will meet for face-to-face instruction and will operate on level 0 of the Parker Return to Learn Plan.
- Will the Parker School District require masks?
  - Masks are not required. The Parker School District will support staff and students who wish to wear face coverings in accordance with the protocol mentioned above in this document.
- Will the Parker School District offer a remote learning option for students?
  - No. Remote learning will only be offered if in level 1 of the Parker Return to Learn Plan for students and families who feel their student(s) are more comfortable learning from home. Please see above for remote learning rules and guidelines.
- Will athletics and extra-curricular activities be offered?
  - Yes, we will be using the SDHSAA guidelines to monitor participation in athletics and activities. The athletics and activities schedule will be a fluid document; travel decisions will be made on a weekly basis.
- Will the Parker School District be offering traditional hot lunch?
  - Yes, school lunch will be an option regardless of the level we are currently operating at during that time. The location within the building and the type of meal served may vary depending on the level the Parker School District is in at that time.
- Are test kits available within the school?
  - Yes, Covid test kits are available upon request.
- How many cases will it take to change levels in our plan?
  - The SD DOH and CDC does not place a number on positive Coronavirus cases as a determining factor when changing levels of district learning strategies. The Parker School District will use community data trends, hospitalizations, positive

case numbers, and guidance from SD DOH to determine when we change levels or when we go to a remote learning model.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH doh.sd.gov/covid/

Frequently Asked Questions about

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recently approved and recommended the Pfizer and BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11.

The South Dakota Department of Health has put together this sheet to answer questions parents and guardians may have regarding the pediatric COVID-19 vaccination.

Who is eligible for the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine?

All children ages 5-11 are eligible to receive the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 12–17 are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine authorized for adults.

What is the difference between the pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the adult Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?

The pediatric vaccine (for ages 5-11) is the same vaccine as that for persons ages 12 and older, but at a lower dose. Both vaccines come in a two-dose series given three weeks apart.

Is the vaccine safe for children 5-11 years old?

Over 3,000 children have received the vaccine during clinical trials. The data collected during those trials proves that the vaccine is both safe and effective. The most common side effects include headaches, fever, and chills in the two days post- vaccination.

How well does the vaccine work?

Clinical trials conducted on children ages 5-11 have shown 90.7% efficacy in fighting COVID-19. The vaccine produces a strong immune response in children which helps prevent serious illness from the virus.

Why should children get vaccinated for COVID-19?

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect children ages 5 years and older from getting COVID-19 or its variants.

- Vaccinating children can help **protect family members**, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at increased risk of getting very sick if they are infected.
- Vaccination can also help protect children from both short-term complications like hospitalization and **long-term health complications** due to COVID-19.
- Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can help keep them in school and help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

Parents should talk with their child's pediatrician to get trusted, personalized medical advice and do what is right for their families.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH **PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION**

source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html

Reviewed 05/09/2022