

Starting Well 2020

Jones County School District #37-3

Introduction

This document is designed to assist the Jones County School District as we plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The challenge of reopening school buildings will require an unprecedented level of preparation, coordination, and communication.

Team Members:

Board Members: Rachel Talich and Jessie Tucker
Administration: Mrs. Valburg, Beth Feddersen, Mrs. Esmay
Parents: Beth Newbold and Laurie Dolloff
Teachers: Mrs. Kinsley, Mrs. Ball, Ms. Saunders
School Nurse: Lea Glaze
Activities Director: Lenae Tucker
Bus Driver: Stephanie Vevig
Food Service: Lunchtime Solutions, Katie Hunt
Custodians: Teresa Hatheway and Kari Harter

Plans for returning to school will be built to be flexible and adaptable to changing local conditions. We will develop plans with local government and state health officials using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [School Reopening Decision Tree](#) and the South Dakota Department of Health's [Community Mitigation Chart](#) as key resources to inform their decision making. The document that has been put together by DOE and practitioners to help guide the start of school this fall has been released. This will be a "living" document that will be able to change and morph as we continue to learn the best information, we can about COVID-19. See full documents in the appendix.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of all is our highest priority. Experts continue to emphasize the need for social distancing to stop the spread of COVID-19. This means, school settings and routines will undergo some changes in the fall to reduce exposure. This will include more cleaning and safety equipment, such as health screens, rearranging classrooms, and adding specific time slots for handwashing. Health and safety information will dictate the model that will be used to continue ongoing instruction. **Please Note: There may be instances where a school building is using one delivery model, but another is using a different delivery model due to the need to clean facilities after a positive case of COVID-19.** This change from one model to another could happen very quickly. The District will work with students and staff who have existing medical conditions that do not allow for a safe return to school in the fall. Flexibility is key to our ability to "switch gears" for learning during this uncertain time. If you have a fever, stay home until the fever is gone for three days without medication. Students may be screened for fever and other symptoms.

Thanks to the Council of Chief State School Officers for providing the Restart and Recovery Framework.

Delivery of Education

Currently, we **DO** intend to be back in the classroom, as scheduled, on Thursday, August 20, 2020. We will plan for more than one instructional delivery scenario for the 2020-21 school year, recognizing that there may be full-building closures or the need for one or more students to quarantine during the year. Our plan will accommodate different instructional modes throughout the year. Plans will account for both instructional and operational concerns, while recognizing important health considerations. (See Remote Learning Plan)

Traditional Delivery – teachers and students keep a normal daily schedule in classrooms, with modifications to space and practices

Modified Delivery – a variety of educational models may be used in response to an increase number of COVID cases

Remote Delivery – instruction is provided off-campus through technology or learning packets

Instructional

When developing school calendars, we will work with school board to reimagine what the school year might look like. We will change when COVID-19 becomes prevalent in our school and community.

- Consider an extended calendar with longer breaks throughout the year for added flexibility.
- Think about lengthening school days in order to stagger classes more effectively.
- Consider incremental return strategies based on school buildings or grade level to maximize social distancing.

Technology and flex learning strategies

Identify platforms that will be used school-wide and, to the extent possible, ensure consistent platforms across grade spans and educators.

- Kindergarten and 1st Grade will use See Saw Program, Reading Eggs and Math Seeds, Microsoft Teams, and paper packets.
- 2nd - 4th Grades will use See Saw, on-line curriculum, Microsoft Teams and paper packets.
- 3rd – 8th Grades will utilize Microsoft Teams, Study Island, Exact Path, and on-line curriculum
- 9th – 12th grades will use Microsoft Teams and on-line curriculum

Identify students who may not have access to necessary technology (either devices or connectivity) and develop a plan to ensure they will have access to meet their learning needs. (Survey on JC Home Page <https://jonesco.k12.sd.us/default.aspx>)

Public access

- Please call ahead if you wish to enter the building.
- If school is closed the buildings (aud., weight room) will also be closed.

Clean and disinfect often

- Including classroom manipulatives, equipment, and surfaces, especially doorknobs and restrooms.
- Use alcohol wipes to clean keyboards and electronics, and have students wash hands after use.
- Minimize the potential for the spread of germs by temporarily removing objects that are not easily cleanable and rotate the manipulatives that are out at any one time so that they can be adequately cleaned and sanitized.
- Schedule breaks for handwashing/sanitizing/and/or sanitizing desks, workstations, and supplies.
- For more detailed information, visit the CDC's page for:

[Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools and Daycare Facilities.](#)

Recess

- Will be in staggered shifts and will be with classroom group.
- Always wash hands immediately after outdoor play time.

Student transportation

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before getting on the bus.
- Wash your hand or use hand sanitizer after reaching your destination.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth while on the bus.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or inside of your elbow.
- Limit frequent touching of hard surfaces.
- Sanitize bus after each use.
- Consider wearing a mask.
- Review the CDC's [guidance for transport vehicles](#), which includes more detailed protocols for occupants and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

Classrooms and lunchroom

- Eliminate large group activities and when possible stagger students and staff three to six feet.
- Limit item sharing, and if items are being shared, remind students to not touch their face.
- Minimize time standing in lines.
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between multiple children.
- Limit unnecessary staff and visitors.
- Sanitize cookware, food preparation areas, and service stations regularly. Plan for food distribution that minimizes handling.
- Sanitize tables in between classes and ensure proper distancing between students OR consider closing the lunchroom and have students eat in their classrooms. Staff will enter student PIN numbers for breakfast and lunch.

Health Considerations

When assessing health considerations, we will follow CDC [guidance for reopening](#) as well as the [guide for schools and childcare centers](#) in taking steps to keep students and staff safe in school buildings. Specific considerations include:

- Preventing the spread of infection by emphasizing good hygiene and handwashing best practices.
- Instituting limited contact policies such as spreading desks apart, staggering meals, and employing virtual meetings.
- Reviewing building cleaning protocols and access to facilities by outside entities.
- Planning for whether and how to handle large events will include the following:
[CDC guidance for event organizers](#)

Implement mitigation strategies

The CDC has provided [guidance on mitigation strategies](#) and a [webpage devoted to schools](#). We will look daily at the South Dakota Department of Health's COVID-19 [county-by-county data](#) in determining what mitigation strategies may be most appropriate to apply to our building(s) on a regular basis.

If children, staff, or parents develop COVID-19 or symptoms

Staff or children with fever (100.4° F or higher), cough, or shortness of breath should be excluded from the school and stay away from others, as well as students with household members who are known to have COVID-19. See the [SD DOE's guidance for childcare facilities](#) for more detailed information on handling an individual who develops symptoms while on school grounds. Parents please monitor at home before bringing students to school.

If we experience a confirmed case of COVID-19 among our population, we will consider closing at least temporarily. The duration will be dependent on staffing levels, outbreak levels in the community, and severity of illness in the infected individual. If the infected individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 spent minimal time in close contact with those in school, we may consider closing for 24 hours to do a thorough cleaning. We will take guidance from the Department of Health.

For conditions on returning to school if a staff member or child has symptoms of COVID-19 or is a close contact of someone with COVID-19. An individual with COVID-19 should avoid public places for 14 days.

Guiding Principles (DOH)

- Schools will provide face-to-face instruction as much as possible throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- COVID-19 will continue to spread; at the same time, we know more about the virus than we did in spring 2020.
- Schools can take practical steps to mitigate spread while continuing to focus on student learning.
- Schools need to make decisions that balance public health considerations with the known benefits of the full school experience (academic, social-emotional, physical).

Additional Resource

Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting (PDF): https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf

DOH county-by-county: <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>

Jones County School Home page: <https://jonesco.k12.sd.us/default.aspx>

CDC's Schools Reopening Decision Tree: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Schools-Decision-Tree.pdf>

SD DOH's Community Mitigation Chart:

https://doh.sd.gov/Documents/COVID19/COVID19_Community_Mitigation.pdf

SD DOE Starting Well: <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

