

# **Return to Learn Handbook**

**Canton School District**

**Last Updated 8/2/2021**

**Board Approved 8/9/21**

# HOME HEALTH SCREENING

The absolute most critical component of our Return to School Plan is a Cooperative Partnership with parents/guardians, staff, and students, where all individuals commit to:

- 1.) Stay home when they are feeling sick.
- 2.) Practice good hygiene (wash hands frequently, cough into elbow or tissue paper, etc..)
- 3.) Practice Physical (Social) Distancing where possible.
- 4.) Wear a mask.

\*The district will not conduct contact tracing for exposed individuals. We will honor the quarantines established by the SD DOH.

## **State and Local Health Official—Coordination Efforts**

The Canton School District will in good faith, work with local and state health officials when managing Covid-19 cases.

## **DAILY QUESTIONS:**

Parents are asked to complete the following individual health screening process at home with their children each day prior to sending them on the bus or to any Canton School District facilities.

- Does your child have a temperature over 100<sup>0</sup>F?
- Does your child have a new or worsening cough?
- Does your child have new or worsening shortness of breath?
- Does your child have a headache which is unrelated to a known health condition (migraines)?
- Does your child have diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain?
- Has your child recently lost their sense of taste or smell?
- In the past 14 days, has your child been in close contact with an individual that has tested positive for Covid-19 or an individual that is self-quarantined due to Covid-19 symptoms and/or awaiting results?

***If you answered “YES” to any of the questions above, STOP!***



***Do not send your child to school. Contact your healthcare provider. Contact your child’s school to inform them of your***

*child's symptoms. You may also contact the SD Dept of Health with any COVID-19 questions at 1-800-997-2880.*



*If you answered "NO" to all the questions above, please send your child to school.*

## **STUDENT ILLNESS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY**

### **Isolation Area**

- Each respective school will be required to maintain an Isolation Area for students experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Each Isolation Area will be separate from the Nurse's Office and cannot be utilized for general Student Health Services.
- Individuals exhibiting symptoms will be directly placed in the Isolation Area and held there until released to the parent.

### **Protocol for Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms**

1. Any individual exhibiting symptoms of illness during the school day will be referred to the main office for an evaluation by the School Nurse.
2. Staff Members are required to contact the Main Office prior to sending a student to the Building Office or Isolation Area.
3. The student must wear a mask while in the Isolation Area.
4. The School Nurse will be responsible for assessing any student that is exhibiting symptoms.
5. If the School Nurse determines that the student is at risk, the parent/guardian will be contacted and the child will be sent home.
6. The School Nurse will record any referrals in the building's Health Log and provide information to the building administration.

7. The classroom teacher will sanitize the student desk, chair, locker, or any space used by the student.
8. The Custodial Staff will sanitize the Isolation Area following each usage.
9. It is critical that the all District employees maintain confidentiality related to any student/staff health information.
10. The School Nurse will provide follow-up with the parent/guardian.

## RETURN TO SCHOOL CRITERIA

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Persons with COVID-19 symptoms who were sent home by the District and directed to care for themselves may return to school under the following conditions:
  - At least 72 hours has passed **and**
  - There has been an improvement in symptoms (able to control cough, sneezing, nasal drainage, etc.); **or**
  - A note from a licensed medical provider informing the school of the date when the individual can return to school.
2. Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 may return to school when:
  - At least 10 days have passed since having a positive COVID-19 diagnostic test with the test date counted as day 1 **and**;
  - Temperature has been below 100<sup>0</sup> F for the past 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
  - Have had no subsequent illness and are asymptomatic.
3. Individuals who have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone who is currently being quarantined may return to school:
  - After 14 days have been passed since last being in contact with the confirmed or quarantined individual; **and** is not experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms.
  - **Or**, can provide documentation of a Covid-19 vaccine and displaying no symptoms.

*\*The district will help communicate information from local healthcare providers on access to Covid-19 vaccinations.*

## On-Campus Instructional Plan

### **GREEN PLAN: Traditional Instruction**

- Traditional learning environment where students are transported using district bussing and/or student transportation to the attendance centers.
- The district will use traditional scheduling with accommodations in place to reduce the risk of pathogen transfer.
- Students will be allowed to store materials in their hallway lockers.

### **YELLOW PLAN:**

- Students and staff will be required to wear masks when in the building. This practice and other mitigation strategies may be amended by the Administration based upon CDC recommendations. Masks will not be required during lunch or outdoor activities (PE, recess, Marching Band, etc....). Athletes will not be required to use a mask during practice but will while on a bus.
- Teachers WILL incorporate online learning tools into daily instruction to prepare students and parents for any transition needed.
- Students may be assigned to a classroom pod where they will spend the majority of their school day.
- Middle and High School Students will receive a majority of their instruction through an online format in the classroom. Elementary students will receive their instruction in their classroom.
- Staggered lunch dismissals with students eating in their classroom pod.
- Students will no longer be allowed access to their lockers and are encouraged to bring a back-pack to school. All materials will be stored in their classroom.
- Attempts will be made to allow for families to transition to full-time online instruction if the district moves to Yellow.

### **RED PLAN: Online Instruction (Off-Campus)**

- The District will be ready at any point to transition to online learning. Online learning will take place utilizing a uniform distance learning system for elementary (See Saw Platform) and for secondary grade levels. (Google Classroom).

\*All plans include programming designed to address the social-emotional needs of staff and students. Training will be provided to help maintain dialogue on the importance of this topic throughout the school year.

## Virtual Learning Option

Parents will have the option of not sending their student(s) to school this year and may elect to educate their child at home. For those individuals, a virtual learning program will be provided.

Families electing to enroll in the Virtual Learning option will need to commit to the program for the entire semester. Students will not be allowed to “jump back and forth” between distance learning and in-person learning on campus. The reason for this decision is the expense related to purchasing an appropriate number of software licenses. The District is required to pay the full expense for the online virtual course whether the student completes the course or not. Families choosing to enroll in the Virtual Learning program will need to notify the District by August 12th.

## Face Masks

### Introduction

The use of face masks by students, staff, and visitors is recommended, but not required. This decision will be revisited periodically throughout the school year.

### Approved Face Masks

Students will be allowed to bring their own mask from home provided it completely covers the nose/mouth area and is content appropriate. Neck gaiters, bandanas and other breathable cloth masks are acceptable. If a student does not have a mask, the district will provide one for the individual student. Face shields will not “take the place” of a mask as they do not filter out the infected respiratory droplets traveling in the air.

### Face Masks and Medical Conditions:

Any student or faculty member that has a documented medical condition that could become agitated by a face covering (mask) will be required obtain a note from a certified medical provider including possible accommodations. Schools officials will meet with these individuals and create an acceptable plan.

# Water Fountains/Water Bottles

Drinking fountains will go back to regular use. This decision will be revisited periodically throughout the school year.

## School Visitors

The Canton School District will allow visitors at the discretion of the building principal. This decision will be revisited periodically throughout the school year.

## Food Service

The Canton School District will follow the requirements established by their school lunch program provider, Lunchtime Solutions, for guidance on restrictions during meals. Social distancing in the cafeteria is recommended as much as space allows.

# School Bus Guidelines

### **Country Route Bussing**

- Parents are asked to perform the recommended “Home Health Screening” with their student each morning before sending their student to the bus.
- Masks will be recommended, not required.
- A seating chart may be enforced to allow for social distancing on the bus.

### **City Transit Bussing**

- Masks will be recommended, not required.
- Because of the sporadic nature of transit bussing, a seating chart will not be enforced. However, students are asked to social distance when selecting a seat.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for student use when exiting the bus.

### **ABC Bus Expectations**

- Masks for bus drivers will be recommended, not required.
- Each bus will be sanitized after each use (usually twice per day) concentrating on common areas of contact such as seats, walls, windows and railing.

- A deep sanitizing of the bus will occur at least on a weekly basis or more frequently when the situation necessitates.

## **Facility Cleaning**

### **Classroom/Facility Cleaning**

Custodial staff will make spray bottles of cleaning solution available to all rooms daily. Solution will be applied at least once daily. The district has improved the air handling systems to include advanced filtration to improve ventilation.

### **Critical Infrastructure Employees**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe, clean and healthy environment for students and school employees.

Due to the COVID 19 global pandemic, the Board considers all Canton School District employees as essential workers. If the South Dakota Department of Health identifies an employee as a close contact who was potentially exposed to COVID-19, such identification alone does not entitle an asymptomatic employee to self-quarantine for 14 days. An employee who desires leave for quarantine purposes must provide documentation supporting their request from a health care provider, state health department, or local health department.

If the employee does begin to show signs or symptoms relating to COVID-19, and knows he or she was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, the employee must quarantine for 14 days from the date of last exposure. If the employee tests positive for COVID-19, they may return to work only if:

- they have been without a fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication;
- there is an improvement of all symptoms and;
- at least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Nothing in this policy should be construed to deny or infringe upon an employee any benefits, entitlements, or rights under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or other federal employment acts and regulations.

## **Restriction Levels**

### **Level 1**

- Masks for employees, students, and visitors are recommended, not required.

## **Level 2**

- Require masks for employees.
- Require students to wear masks during passing periods, when standing in lunch lines, while on school buses, in large groups (class meetings/choir) and recommend masks in classrooms.

## **Level 3**

- Require all employees, students and visitors to wear masks.
- Modify lunchroom and recess procedures.
- Limit attendance to activities.

These level can be implemented by building or by the entire district based on the conditions.

\*The Canton School District will make all accommodations necessary for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. Any questions regarding the implementation of these accommodations should be directed to the building Principal.