

Hello Clipper Families,

We hope you have had an enjoyable relaxing summer while staying healthy and safe during this pandemic.

Education is a vital component to our children. Therefore, our goal is to provide a safe, structured and nurturing environment for our students to return to in August. We are planning on opening our doors on August 18<sup>th</sup>. It is our hope that we can continue the school year in the building through a shared commitment from students, teachers, families, and staff. This shared commitment includes everyone doing their part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The North Dakota Department of Health has created risk levels. It is these risk levels that will guide us during this pandemic.

These are the risk levels:

**Red / Critical Risk** is the level with the highest disease burden and level of significant and uncontrolled community transmission, multiple outbreaks resulting in increased deaths, surge capacity of hospitals are threatened and there is lack of adequate PPE supplies available for healthcare workers. The most significant mitigation strategies are implemented at the Red / Critical Risk level.

**Orange / High Risk** is the level of significant transmission and high risk for exposure due to widespread community spread of infections. There are significant mitigation strategies emphasizing “Stay Home. Stay Healthy. Stay Connected.” Only essential travel and essential workforce, adherence to strict social distancing guidance, increased cleaning and disinfecting of bathrooms and high touch surfaces.

**Yellow / Moderate Risk** is the level of heightened exposure risk and transmission is controlled in these areas. Cases are reported but contained by rapid testing and robust contact tracing. Moderate social distancing and precautions are needed. Increased cleaning on high-touch surfaces and cleanings on shared spaces should be routine. Shared surfaces will be more frequently cleaned and disinfected. Case-based interventions will actively identify and isolate people with the disease and their contacts. All vulnerable individuals should continue to self-isolate and avoid large groups in public places. Those who are sick will be asked to stay home and seek testing for COVID-19.

**Green / Low Risk** for exposure or transmission, low case counts are reported, public health and private healthcare are ND Smart Restart able to safely diagnose, treat, and isolate COVID-19 cases and their contacts. Some physical distancing measures and limitations on gatherings will still be recommended to prevent transmission from accelerating again. For older adults (those over age 65), those with underlying health conditions, and other populations at heightened risk from COVID-19, continuing to limit time in the community will be important. State and community leaders should prepare health alerts, communicate risk and symptoms, review plans, prepare for public health capacity if needed for spikes in cases.

**Blue / New Normal** is when most normal activity can resume, with standard precautions and awareness of health guidelines such as routine hand washing, stay home when sick, cover your cough, education, stockpiling, planning, routine health alerts, etc. Monitoring for illness and outbreaks will continue. Even under new normal conditions, those found to be ill will be asked to self-isolate and contacts will be asked to remain at home.

Based on all this information, the following guidelines are intended to provide protection for our employees, students, and community.

**What we will do as school and district personnel:**

- Mitigate risk/spread by encouraging physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, sanitization, staggering class start and release times, hallway flow adjustments, adjusting lunch times and seating, recess modifications and spacing of students in common areas.
- Be aware of illness/symptoms in the student body and contact a student's family immediately if a student exhibits symptoms.
- Monitor positive COVID-19 cases and its spread in Strasburg School District and follow — as we would with any community health concern — the recommendation of health department officials regarding school closures, modified school schedules or in-school adjustments.
- Continue to refine our digital curriculum to meet the needs of distance learning as it arises.
- Modify our method of delivery, however necessary, to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.

**What you can do:**

- Understand that these guidelines are determined by health, educational and civic professionals commissioned to care for your child, considering the physical environment, time spent in school, and the potential risk to the health of our students, staff and families.
- Keep your child home if they have a fever, cough, cold or flu symptoms, and have them return only when these symptoms have subsided.
- Create a family plan in case your child is sent home from school/bus due to high temperature or is required to be quarantined or isolated.
- Create a family plan in the event schools close for a 14-day quarantine due to cases within the Strasburg School District.
- Talk to your child about changes they may notice at school, reinforcing that these measures are in place to preserve their health, and the health of those around them.
- As always, please reinforce the importance of respecting the authority of teachers and staff to maintain order in the classroom, the hallway, and other campus areas.
- Prepare as much as possible to adapt to change. As evidenced this past spring, things evolve quickly, and schedule modifications and/or closures may be unavoidable.
- Recognize you can choose traditional face-to-face school or online options and, as always, we are happy to assist you with your child's educational needs.
- Know that you as a guardian and parent have the right to keep your child home at any time as you assess risk as it relates to your family.

\*Remember this is a fluid document. This document is subject to change based on CDC and NDDOH recommendations and guidelines. All changes will be board approved.



## Red Phase/Orange Phase

Schools should remain closed for general in-person instruction. All instruction must continue via distance learning, whether using digital or non-digital platforms. **Any individual needing to enter the school campus must follow the following guidelines.**

### Health & Safety Plan

#### STAFF:

- Face-coverings REQUIRED under the following conditions:
  - \*6-foot distancing cannot be maintained
  - \*Close proximity is longer than 15 minutes
  - \*Dealing with ill individuals
  - \*Any other condition that may cause concern
- Health screening and temperature check completed at home
  - \*Early notification to Strasburg Public School to ensure proper coverage

#### Students:

- Face-coverings REQUIRED under the following conditions:
  - \*6-foot distancing cannot be maintained.
  - \*Close proximity is longer than 15 minutes.
  - \*Dealing with ill individuals.
  - \*Any other condition that may cause concern.
- Health screening to be completed at home.
- Temperature checks conducted before entering bus or school.
- Temperatures greater than 100.4 will be sent home.
  - Bus- A call will be placed to families and students will return home immediately.
  - School- Students will be isolated for family pick-up.
- Bring water bottle to school as the only fountains that will be in use are the water bottle filling stations.

### Communication

- Ongoing communication will go out to families in multiple ways: Facebook, School webpage, Remind app, Monthly Newsletter. CDC and NDDOH hygiene at home information will be shared with families through these avenues.

### School Meals

- If the school building is closed, school meals will be delivered based on the meal plan developed by food service personnel. All meal preparation and food deliveries will be done with staff using proper PPE.



## Yellow Phase

In-person instruction. This phase should emphasize facial coverings, personal hygiene and social distancing practices. 10% of staff and/or students are in quarantine or isolation due to COVID.

### COVID-19 Response Plan

Covid-19 Response Team. See Appendix C for roles and responsibilities.

- Superintendent, will be the contact for public health to be notified by public health of COVID-19 cases in the school setting, will report cases of COVID-19 identified in the school setting to public health. This position will assist public health in identifying and notifying close contacts in the school setting. This individual will be responsible for notifying the state superintendent of cases occurring in the school setting.
- Students and staff will complete a health screening at home to include temperature.
- Surveys will be sent to all school patrons to identify and protect children and staff at higher risk with an opportunity for continued distance teaching and learning.
- If students or staff have been exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting parents and staff will be notified via a phone call and/or mailed letter and/or an email from the district.

### Positive or Close Contact

- If a staff member, student, or visitor becomes sick or demonstrates a history of exposure they must isolate themselves from others and report symptoms to the principal. Students' families will be notified and required to pick up student from school. Staff and visitors will be recommended to begin NDDOH protocols for isolation.
- For an isolation of a positive or quarantine for a close/household contact, See Appendix A & B.

### Communication & Training

- All staff will be trained on the Health & Safety plan during professional development days in August before students arrive on campus. Including handwashing protocol.
- All staff will be trained on how to utilize the appropriate PPE.
- Ongoing communication will go out to families in multiple ways: Facebook, School webpage, Remind app, Monthly Newsletter. CDC and NDDOH hygiene at home information will be shared with families through these avenues.

### Hygiene & Cleaning

- Facial coverings (masks or face shields) should be worn by staff and students when social distancing is not possible. Face coverings will be a personal choice.
- Staff will train student on the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices. <https://youtu.be/eZw4Ga3jg3E>
- Hand sanitizer stations strategically placed throughout the building.
- The custodians will disinfect interior surfaces such as door handles, sinks, bathrooms, water bottle fillers, etc.... three times a day (6:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM).
- Bus drivers will disinfect all bus seats after each use.

### Physical Distancing

- Due to class sizes our teachers will do their best to social distance students. Some classes may be held in other locations than in the typical classroom, i.e. use of the multipurpose room. Large class sizes will be in alternative locations.
- Lunch in the multipurpose room will be staggered in order to decrease the number of individuals in congregate spaces.
- When weather permits, utilization of outdoor spaces is recommended.

## **Additional Safety Measures**

- Students will utilize their own school supplies. There will be no communal bins in the classrooms.
- Non-essential visitors and volunteers will not be permitted into the building. These individuals may conduct their business virtually. Non-essential visitors and volunteers are those that are not required to complete day-to-day business.
- Students will sit in family groups on buses and will allow for one seat between family groups.
- Bring water bottle to school as the only fountains that will be in use are the water bottle filling stations.
- Daily student temperatures may be taken after consultation with local public health
- Students will be required to sit in family pod on the busses, with filling from the back to the front upon pick up.



# Green Phase/Blue Phase

## In School Instruction

### Continuity of Services

- All learning will take place in a face-to-face/on campus format unless school closing due to weather, then HB 1232 will be followed. Virtual academies, such that are mentioned in HB1388, will not be offered through SPS.

### COVID-19 Response Plan

- Superintendent will report cases of COVID-19 identified in the school setting to public health. This position will assist public health in identifying and notifying close contacts in the school setting. This individual will be responsible for notifying the state superintendent of cases occurring in the school setting.
  - Students and staff should complete a health screening at home to include temperature.
  - Students and staff that develop a temperature at school will be isolated until they are able to leave the building.
  - If students or staff have been exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting parents and staff will be notified via a phone call and/or mailed letter and/or an email from the district.
- NDDoH protocols will be followed for:
- positive and close contact guidance
  - Emmons County Public Health will provide vaccination days at school for those wanting the vaccine.

### Hygiene, Face Coverings & Cleaning

- Facial coverings (masks or face shields) may be worn by staff and student but will not be required. Face coverings will be a personal choice. Universal and correct wearing of masks can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
- Staff will train student on the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices. <https://youtu.be/eZw4Ga3jg3E>
- Hand sanitizer stations strategically placed throughout the building
- The custodians will daily disinfect interior surfaces such as door handles, sinks, bathrooms, water facets, water fountains, etc.
- All classrooms have ductless air conditioning units with air purification filters.
- Existing HVAC system has air purification filters installed.

### Physical Distancing

- Due to class sizes our teachers will do their best to social distance students. Some classes may be held in other locations than in the typical classroom, i.e. use of the multipurpose room. Large class sizes may be in alternative locations.
- When weather permits, utilization of outdoor spaces is recommended.
- Appropriate accommodations will be provided, if a student, due to a disability requires them. The individual students' team will evaluate on a case by case basis.

### Communication & Training

- All staff will be trained on the Restart plan during professional development days in August before students arrive on campus. Including handwashing protocol.
- Ongoing communication will go out to families in multiple ways: Facebook, School webpage, Remind app, Monthly Newsletter.

**Key Notes to be aware of:**

**\*This is a fluid document. This document is subject to change based on CDC and NDDOH recommendations and guidelines. All changes will be board approved.**

**\*Strasburg Public School will follow the NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOLS published by NDDoH.**

**Appendix C  
Roles and Responsibilities of COVID-19 Team**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Point of Contact for ND DoH &amp; Public Health for all COVID related inquires</b></li> <li><b>*Provide initial training on the Health and Safety and Learning Plans</b></li> </ul>
<b>PK-12 Principal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Ensure the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans are followed through by staff and students</b></li> </ul>
<b>Public Health Representative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Clear direction to the superintendent for the health and safety plan, to ensure best practices are being followed</b></li> <li><b>*Contact superintendent with any COVID related items that directly affect Strasburg Public School, students and staff</b></li> </ul>
<b>Teachers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Help write Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans, keeping students and staff safety and learning at the forefront</b></li> <li><b>*Follow the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans</b></li> <li><b>*Reinforce the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans with students</b></li> </ul>
<b>Cooks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Help write Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans, keeping students and staff safety and learning at the forefront</b></li> <li><b>*Follow the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans</b></li> <li><b>*Reinforce the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans with students</b></li> <li><b>*In the event of distance learning, develop a written plan for food services and submit written plan to the superintendent</b></li> </ul>
<b>Paraprofessionals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Help write Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans, keeping students and staff safety and learning at the forefront</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>*Follow the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans</b></p> <p><b>*Reinforce the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans with students</b></p>
<b>Parent(s)</b>	<p><b>*Help write Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans, keeping students and staff safety and learning at the forefront</b></p> <p><b>*Help by reinforcing the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans at home</b></p>
<b>Student(s)</b>	<p><b>*Help write Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans, keeping students and staff safety and learning at the forefront</b></p> <p><b>*Follow the Health &amp; Safety and Learning Plans</b></p>
<b>List of our COVID-19 Restart members:</b>	<p><b>Dayna Bartlette- PK-12 Principal</b></p> <p><b>Amanda Baumgartner- Cook/Parent</b></p> <p><b>DelRae Baumgartner- Public Health/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Kim Droog- Teacher/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Brian Grove- Teacher/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Andrea Hulm- Board Member/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Lynette Keller- Teacher</b></p> <p><b>Danielle Mastel- Parent</b></p> <p><b>Gloria Odden- Superintendents/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Penny Smith- Teacher/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Renee Ternes- Board Member/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Andrea Vander Vorste- Paraprofessional/Parent</b></p> <p><b>Elizabeth Volk- Teacher</b></p>