James Valley Christian School

2020 Return to School Plan (COVID-19 response) As of July 29, 2020

From: the Administration of JVCS

To: James Valley Christian School Families

We hope you and your family are enjoying a fun and healthy summer break. At JVC we have been working diligently to create a reasonable and responsible plan for returning to our physical campus for the start of school on August 20. We are looking forward to welcoming your student back to campus this fall as we seek to return to school as "normal" as possible. As a school, one of our goals each year is to build community. In fact, one of our core values along with being Christ centered, offering academic excellence and spiritual development is the core value of building community. The traditional classroom model allows our teachers and students to be in a classroom together devoted to instruction and learning, and actively engage in growing together both academically and spiritually. We believe this is where our community is best accomplished. It is our desire for our students and staff to be on campus this entire school year actively engaged in curricular and co-curricular activities.

We appreciate your patience as we have worked on developing a comprehensive plan that accomplishes our shared desire to return to school as "normal" as possible along with keeping our students and community as healthy as possible. Our aspiration, even in the uncertainty of what is ahead, is that we will strengthen our unity and testimony as the people of God called to this particular place, that we will equip each child according to their distinct, God-given giftedness and purpose.

Given the fluidity of the situation, our plans to safely return to school in August will be constantly evaluated for necessary modifications. Once school is in session we will be evaluating our procedures and protocols on a weekly basis. This is by no means a final draft. If we feel it is safe to peel back some of the restrictions in our procedures we will do so, and if we need to add more procedures we will do that as well. These plans embrace current recommendations for returning to school from the Center for Disease Control, South Dakota Department of Health, along with recommendations from medical personnel, our school board and a parent group that we have formed within our school. Please note that recommendations from each of these organizations will evolve between now and August and will be taken into appropriate consideration, which could result in changes to our reopening plan.

It will be very important for our students to have the adults in their lives, both teachers and parents, be positive and supportive of the changes and inconveniences that will occur because of the COVID-19 presence. This virus has created many circumstances that are not ideal but we will graciously follow guidelines as they are given to us and do our best to display an example of trust in God's Word as well as respect the authority that is in place.

This document outlines some of the procedures we plan to utilize as we start the school year, understanding that things may change.

Introduction

Early in the 2020 Calendar year, we heard about a respiratory infection (commonly referred to as "Coronavirus" at that time) that had originated in China and was very contagious and for which there was no known cure. From there the timeline accelerated quickly, to the point of March 13, 2020, at which time James Valley Christian asked students to prepare for a period of remote learning. Students took textbooks and materials, and teachers created packets and other plans.

The following week, it became apparent that we would not be back in school for a while. Therefore, we started the remote learning adventure in a variety of ways. This plan of remote learning launched on March 23. It took on a few different forms depending on the grade level of the student. In K-6, teachers recorded videos, used Zoom calls, created Google classrooms and created packets for students and parents to continue learning from home. In grades 7-12 assuring that all students had access to a laptop along with appropriate internet connections uses of Sycamore, Google classroom, videos, Zoom and other tools guided the learning process.

In communication with the South Dakota Department of Education, we created a learning plan that would utilize roughly the number of hours needed to remain in compliance with expectations for learning (seat time).

Work we have done (with whom have we consulted, etc.)

As soon as the 2019-20 school year ended, the administrative team began collaborating on what the summer and fall 2020 should look like at James Valley Christian. Obviously our priorities include honoring God with our decisions, taking care of those in our community, using our time, talents and treasures to maximize impact on God's kingdom, as well as community-building. We strongly believe that the Christian community composed of JVC families was created to be together for learning.

In addition to networking together, we consulted with the following sources:

- Centers for Disease Control
- South Dakota Department of Education (including Superintendent's weekly update)
- Beadle County Health Department and Task Force
- Association of Christian Schools International, our member organization
- Members of the James Valley Christian School Community including our Return to School Parent Group
- South Dakota High School Activities Association

Relevant Biblical Assurances of God's Sovereignty

Verses that assure us and comfort us that God is sovereign over all things include:

• 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 -- Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the

kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

- Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
- Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- Matthew 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
- Colossians 1:16-17 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- Isaiah 45:7 I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.
- Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'
- Psalm 103:19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.
- Psalm 135:6 The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.
- Proverbs 16:9 & 33 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.
- Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.
- Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Health/Wellness

According to a report by the American Academy of Pediatricians, even though much information (and misinformation) is still being evaluated, those in the medical community have offered considerations for schools.

Unlike many other viruses (such as the flu), COVID-19 is less likely to be contracted and spread by persons between 0-18 years of age than any other age group. However, it is up to each family (in communication with their family physician) to make the most well-informed decisions for their children.

What measures we are asking from families/adults

We are asking each staff and student to self-screen at home by taking their temperature each morning. At all times, it is important to keep a child who is sick from going to school. However, that urgency is

amplified in these times, so we are asking that you closely monitor your child's health status, being aware of recently developed symptoms such as:

- Fever (temp of 100.4 or higher) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

We understand that some of these symptoms may be a normal part of your child's life. You know your child the best, so we ask that you monitor appropriately. If your child is exhibiting abnormal symptoms, we ask you to keep your child home from school. Additionally, it is important that all families enforce a 24-hour symptom-free without fever reducing medication rule before a student is allowed to return to school.

Staff will have access to thermometers in their classrooms and will take temperatures if there are any symptoms observed. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be taken to an isolated place and parents will be called to come for their child. Your medical provider will give families the next steps to take.

Protocol for Positive COVID Cases

When we have been notified of a positive case of COVID 19 within our school building by the State Department of Health we will take the following measures:

- 1. We will be working closely with the Department of Health as they will take the lead on what happens next with the positive case. The Department of Health will be mindful of confidentiality issues for students and staff. Our nursing staff along with the Department of Health will monitor any positive cases to ensure students and staff are quarantined for the appropriate amount of time.
- 2. If your child has tested positive for COVID 19, we would ask that you notify the Administration team by calling 605-352-7737, or you can email the administrative assistant using assistant@jvcs.org. You will also be receiving a call from the State Department of Health. Anyone testing positive for COVID 19 will be quarantined for a 10 day period and then must be symptom free. We will continue education with options that would allow your child to be actively involved in the class even as they are quarantined.
- 3. When the school is notified of a positive case either from a parent or from the Department of Health, we will then be notifying the appropriate group of parents to begin monitoring their child for symptoms. Please understand that we as a school cannot violate HIPAA or FERPA privacy laws. The Department of Health will be contacting anyone who is deemed to have been in close contact with the person who tested positive. Those people who have been in close contact will be quarantined for a 14 day period per

the Department of Health. (Close contact is considered to be anyone who has been within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before illness onset.) JVCS will not be contacted by the Department of Health if the positive case is a family member of our student. We encourage you as a family to inform us of information (positive cases) that may be helpful to us as we make decision at the school.

- 4. We do not plan to put an entire class in quarantine unless we are forced to by the State Department of Health due to a high number of cases. We may have to shut a classroom down for a 24 hour period of time to sanitize appropriately. In these cases we will find an alternate location to hold this class.
- 5. If a teacher tests positive for COVID they will also be quarantined for a 10 day period. In cases where a teacher is asymptomatic and is able to teach from home, we will utilize electronic options that will allow them to teach the class live to our students while a substitute teacher is in the classroom to monitor students. If the teacher is symptomatic and is sick, we will hire a substitute teacher for this class.
- 6. Once a student has been quarantined for the appropriate time frame, they will be allowed back to school after being cleared by the State Department of Health.

Masks

All staff and students will need to have a mask available. At this point, masks will not be required unless physical distancing is not possible with in our building. A small group of students working together in the elementary classrooms, 7-12 grades working on a science lab or the close quarters of the dish room are examples when masks may be asked to be worn. If your child is wearing a mask a large portion of the day it is suggested that they have more than one mask available to them. If a cloth mask is used it will need to be taken home to be washed regularly.

While we know it can be difficult to understand and hear well when masks are worn, staff will be encouraged to wear masks when helping individual students.

Because busses do not have the ventilation that is provided in other settings athletes and coaches riding the bus to activities will be asked to wear masks. Spectators attending extracurricular activities indoors are encouraged to wear masks, but because participation in this activity is voluntary and there are outside visitors in attendance, mask-wearing will not be enforced. Students are welcome and encouraged to wear masks based on family preference and maturity.

Hand-washing

It has always been a good idea to wash one's hands well and regularly (for at least 20 seconds using soap and water). Students will be given multiple opportunities to wash their hands throughout the day. We are asking that parents reinforce the need for their child(ren) to do this throughout the day, but especially before eating or after touching one's face (e.g., blowing one's nose).

Hand sanitizer

James Valley Christian has a number of hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the building. In addition, classrooms will contain bottles of hand sanitizer. Students are encouraged to use this whenever it is not

possible or practical to wash their hands. However, thorough handwashing with soap and water is still recommended over the use of hand sanitizer.

Academics

We are well aware that the 2019-2020 school year did not end in the most ideal manner for many of our students. We expect there will be a greater need than usual for reviewing material and transitioning back into classroom. Patience and understanding will need to be extended to teachers and your children as it may take several weeks to fully adapt to the routines and rigor of the school day.

Unless we are required by law to close our doors, it is our plan to start the 2020-21 school year on campus and in-person. However, if there are families that require their child(ren) to stay at home, it is our plan to accommodate that need to the best of our ability. Parents are able to choose the distance learning option and still be actively enrolled as a student at James Valley Christian. We will ask that parents inform the school of their intent to be supported with their education at home by August 8 for the first quarter of school.

If a student needs to stay home to avoid contact with large groups of people, we may need to develop a plan to have them take some assessments at school in isolated locations (perhaps after the school day is complete, in a room with Plexiglas protection, sanitized desks, etc.).

In order for students to participate in any activities of the school they must be attending in-person instruction.

Remote Learning

The Google classroom format will be ready to be used for those students not able to be in school. This consistent format will be used in grades 3-12.

The students who are in the classroom at school may be given activities to interact with the content in collaborative ways, whereas students learning from home may be assigned more independent extension activities.

A teacher may desire for a student learning from home to connect synchronously (at a specific time) with one or more of his classmates. It is also possible that there is a whole class discussion that the teacher wants the student to attend (even from home). In those cases, we will ask those students to be available at the given times for participation.

Remote teacher

In the case where a teacher (and/or immediate family member) tests positive for COVID-19 (in which case they will likely need to stay home for a period of time) but feels well enough to teach, we will have a remote teacher option to allow them to interact with their class(es) from home. In this case, we will hire a substitute teacher to supervise the classroom, but the teacher will still teach the class from a distance, using blended learning methods.

Students learning remotely In the case where a student (and/or immediate family member) tests positive for COVID-19 (and they need to stay home) or for families who have chosen for JVC to support

their child(ren) while staying home to learn, James Valley Christian will work hard to accommodate continued learning from a distance.

Lockdown

If the school is ordered to close down (e.g., due to a community spread that affects a large number of people from our building), we plan to pivot immediately into remote learning. In this case, students should be prepared to connect to the remote learning technologies that they will be trained in at the beginning of the school year. The first weeks of school will focus on teaching students how to access content in remote learning situations.

Student Services

Our staff will be participating in professional development training to help with the emotional side of COVID-19 and the additional impact of not being in school for several months. We know that the last few months may have been difficult on students and families. It is our desire to respond to the needs of our students and families with Christ centered counseling along with Christ centered education. Our faculty and staff as well as area pastors continue to be a wonderful resource for these needs.

Athletics

Our athletic department has been following the guidance from the National Federation of Interscholastic Sports as well as the South Dakota High School Activities Association. Throughout the summer athletes have been completing individual workouts as prescribed by their coaches. In July some workouts began in our school gym. On July 20, SDHSAA gave guidance for the fall seasons and all fall sports will begin as planned. It is our desire to have our student athletes participating in a safe setting and we will continue to follow their direction as it develops. The number of spectators in attendance will be based on a tiered system according to the current COVID-19 cases in our area.

TIER	Fan Attendance	Condition
Tier 1	Open Attendance	Steady/Decreasing rates of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations.
Tier 2	Parents/Student Body Only	Slow/intermittent increase of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations. Isolated cases, no evidence of exposures in large communal settings.
Tier 3	Student Body or Parents	Only Steady/incremental increase of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations. Sustained increases, potential exposures in large communal settings.
Tier 4	No Fans	Sharp increase of community active cases, new cases, and/or hospitalizations WITHOUT concurrent increase of cases/contacts within the school setting. Confirmed exposures in large communal settings.

Transportation

When transporting students to different events we will try to maintain more distancing than normal. This may require us to use more vehicles when transporting. We will again be following the guidelines of the health departments as we make these decisions. Due to the lack of adequate air exchange face masks will be worn when riding the bus to school events. Athletes will have the option of riding with parents to and from sporting events. Parents will need to inform the coach of their decision to not ride the bus one week in advance so the school can make the best arrangements for each trip.

Chapel

Our plan is for grades 7-12 to gather for a weekly chapel. We believe worshipping together is a core piece of who we are. With access to a large auditorium we believe we can meet together and still be distanced from other classes by spreading out. However, middle and high school chapels (including worship time) could be livestreamed into the classrooms to avoid large group gatherings. We will also be doing some form of livestream chapel and worship team with our elementary students at the beginning of the year with hopes of moving back to a normal chapel setting in the near future.

Facilities

We have started re-opening our facilities this summer. We are taking extra measures to clean and disinfect areas that have been used by students and adults. We have purchased extra cleaning supplies along with more hand sanitizing stations around the facility. We will be limiting the number of adults that enter our building until conditions allow us to open up to a greater degree. We have data that supports the fact that COVID-19 is transmitted more among adults than with younger people. We will be putting additional cleaning protocols in place to disinfect equipment and spaces to help ensure daily disinfection. Our HVAC ventilation system can be set to allow more air flow throughout the building should that be needed. Our drinking fountains are all being transformed into water bottle filling stations to cut down on the amount of human contact with the fountain.

Music

It is our hope and desire that our students will be able to safely participate in choir and band. We are currently in communication with organizations that are considering the safest ways to have singing in our schools and the playing of instruments. We plan to use the auditorium to give ample space for extra distancing when necessary. We will be getting additional guidance as it become available.

Physical Education

When the weather does not permit classes to be held outside, JVCS is blessed with ample space for spreading out during physical education. If equipment is used it will be sanitized between classes.

Library

Because the elementary library is a relatively small space that is shared by all classes there will be other ways for students to receive the books they want to read. Each K-6 classroom is supplied with a variety of books and additional resources will be given to each room. Teachers may choose to take their students to the library at a time when it can be prepared for them but each class visiting the library one

after the other, as happens with a normal library schedule, will not be done. The 7-12 grade library will be available for students to check out books.

Recess

It is our desire to keep smaller groups of students together during the day as much as possible. In order to do this effectively, our recess times will have minor changes to start this school year. We are in the process of putting together a recess schedule that will keep students together and in smaller numbers than in normal years. This plan will not have a great impact on how much recess time your child will get. Playground equipment will be designated for particular grades when multiple ages are on the playground at the same time. Balls and other items that are used during recess will be sanitized when returning to the building.

After School Care

We will continue to offer an after school program option from 3:30-5:30. Parents will need to understand that while we have space to spread out and even use two rooms if necessary. Children will be with varied ages and possibly not as segregated in grade level classes as during the school day. Parents will be asked to call or text the after school staff so children can meet their parent at the front door.

Food service

Elementary students all wash before entering the lunchroom each day and we will be strongly encouraging 7-12 grade students to wash their hands prior to eating lunch each day as well. We will also have hand sanitizer stations at the doors before entering the serving area which will allow students to sanitize their hands again before getting a tray of food. There will be some adjustment to eating times to allow for fewer students in the lunchroom at one time and additional cleaning. Our goal again is to provide safety to our students and staff. We will also be making adjustments to how we distribute condiments, etc. Sneeze guard barriers will be added to the serving line.

Students could eat lunch in classrooms if that was deemed necessary in the future but we also recognize that it is best for the students to be out of their classrooms for periods of time so there is adequate air exchange there as well.

There will be no guests joining us for lunch in the foreseeable future.

Visitors

Because transmission of the virus is higher among adults, we are going to limit the number of visitors we have in the building throughout the day. If you are dropping your K-6th grade child off at school we ask that you drop off in the appropriate drop off area with only your student exiting your vehicle. Preschool parents will be asked to walk their children to the preschool entrance (Entrance D) and get them in the door. The preschool room will be open ten minutes prior to the start of each section so the children will be able to enter the classroom when arriving. At the conclusion of the preschool day the preschool teacher will walk the children outside to meet their parent.

If you need to deliver something to your child it can be left in the front doors of entrance C. Let the office staff know by ringing the buzzer and explain who needs the delivery. Office staff will retrieve it and get it to the student as soon as possible.

James Valley Christian is supported by many volunteers and their service is critical to our school. Approved volunteers, such as classroom aides, lunchroom helpers, and those helping with the development office staff will be given admittance to the facility. They will be screened with a temperature check as they sign into the office when arriving.

Technology

Use your Sycamore log in to access the most current information.

Should remote learning become necessary, 3-12 grades will need access to a technology device and internet service. Please notify the school if you need support in getting the needed tools. We will be able to check a laptop out to your family.

Communication

In these fluid times communication is going to be very important. Do not hesitate to contact the school directly to get answers to questions you may have or share your concerns. Our main form of communication to our families will be through email. Families need to check regularly for updated information. Sycamore, our primary student information system, will also have the latest updates under the documents tab.

The text alert system will be used for school closings or other emergency information.

The school Facebook account is also used for more general information.

Special Education

Support Services for students on learning plans or speech therapy will be determined by the local district.

Student Behavior

Attendance Policies

We are asking parents to keep a close eye on the health of their children. We know this will most likely lead to more students that are absent from school this year. We also want to guard against the absence policy being abused. We will be working with each case of absence on an individual basis as we may see circumstances arise that we haven't had to deal with in the past. We are asking our parents to partner with us to make sure our environment is safe and keep your child home if they are exhibiting symptoms and at the same time help keep our system from being abused.

Parents who have chosen the remote learning option for their children will report attendance to the school just as the classroom teacher is asked to do.

Mandatory Participation in Remote Learning (when applicable)

In normal (in-person) school situations, we have a somewhat captive audience. Students are in a certain place (at school) at a certain time (during school hours). This gives us the ability to see them and communicate with them directly. This also allows us to deliver behavioral consequences for poor choices. In remote learning environments there are situations out of our control, and we need parents, guardians, and caretakers to partner with us in special ways. Specifically, we rely on these partners to ensure that students are checking in each day and doing the work that needs to be done on a daily basis.

The school endeavors to offer students the opportunity to access learning materials at their level (prepared and/or curated by their teachers), to communicate what is required, to provide opportunities to ask questions and expect a response, and to provide feedback on all assessments. If a student simply stops doing their part, there is little else the school can do. It is the school's policy to communicate with parents about late/missing work, but then to give a grade that demonstrates the student's mastery of the content.

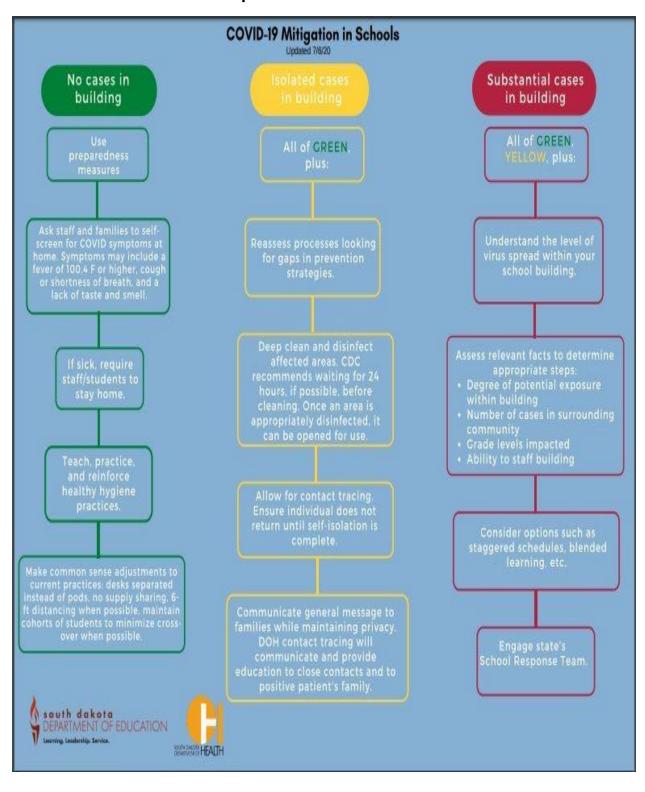
In remote learning environments, active participation in the learning is the only way to assess a student's progress. Therefore, by default, incomplete work will be given a zero. To avoid this consequence by default, all we request is regular and consistent communication with the school about any extenuating circumstances (e.g., a student not understanding a particular assignment or being too ill to work). Students on official learning plans will be given additional accommodations as designated by their plan.

Unfortunately, if a student persistently misses assignments, they will be in danger of failing courses and needing to repeat them to stay on track for graduation. This is to be avoided as much as possible. Students and parents should be on the same page that school is to be a top priority (over things like jobs, club sports, etc.)

Conclusion

We appreciate your continued support and trust as we move forward in this unique and challenging time. We request that you continue to pray for our staff as well as our families as each one faces unique and potentially difficult circumstances. We are looking forward to the start of this new school year and anticipate a rewarding year ahead as we rely on the faithfulness of the God whom we serve and rest on the promises in His Word.

South Dakota Department of Health for Schools



COVID-19 School Scenarios

Planning for the school year under multiple conditions
Prepared by the South Dakota Department of Health - Revised July 7, 2020



Scenario One: No active cases in your community, and no cases in your school building

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

Scenario Two: Active cases in your community, but no cases in your school buildings

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school takes place with appropriate preparedness measures (e.g., requiring students/staff who are sick to stay home; teaching and reinforcing healthy hygiene practices; cleaning and disinfection efforts).

Scenario Three: Student or staff member identified by Department of Health as close contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside of the school community

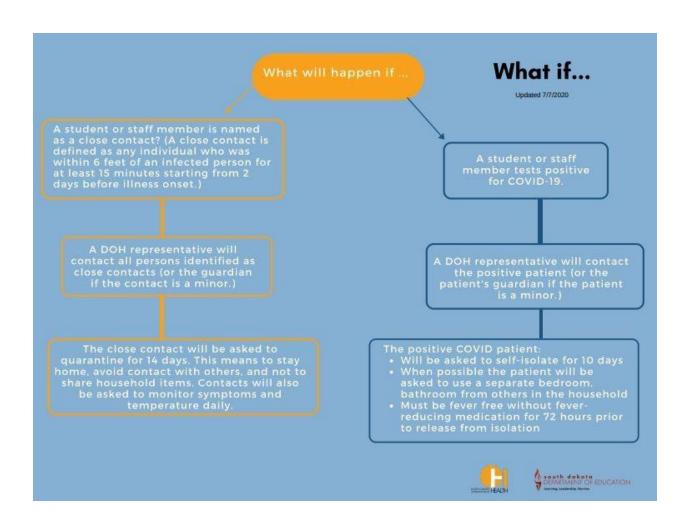
The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school should continue with appropriate preparedness measures in place.

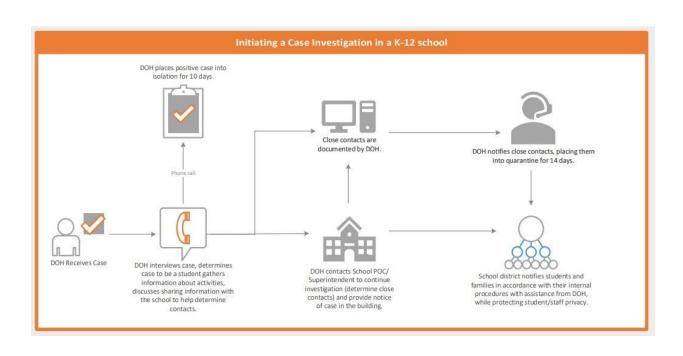
Scenario Four: Active case is identified in one of your school buildings

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials reassess processes - looking for gaps in prevention strategies. In the short-term, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (if feasible) before cleaning and disinfecting. Once area is appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.

Scenario Five: Multiple active cases identified in your buildings at the same time

The South Dakota Departments of Health and Education recommend that school officials review relevant data to understand level of virus spread within the school building and conduct a risk/benefit analysis of factors such as degree of potential exposure within building; case trends in surrounding community; grade levels impacted; remote learning options; scheduling options; ability to staff buildings, etc. in determining the next steps. School leaders can request technical assistance from the DOH/DOE School Response Team if desired.





ISOLATION or QUARANTINE

Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a **CONTAGIOUS DISEASE**.

ISOLATION separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

QUARANTINE separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

ISOLATION

Isolation is for people who are ALREADY SICK.



Isolation separates and restricts the movement of sick people so they can't spread disease.



Isolation in a home means separating yourself from others in the household.



A sick person isolating at home should seek medical treatment if unable to manage symptoms.



Isolation is usually voluntary, but in a public health emergency, officials have the authority to isolate people who are sick.



Stop isolation only if you've had no fever for at least 72 hours; AND have improved symptoms; AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for people who are NOT SICK, but may have been exposed.



Quarantined people may or may not become sick.



Quarantined people must stay at home or another location so they don't unknowingly spread the disease.



If you are quarantined and you become ill, you can seek medical evaluation from a healthcare provider.



Quarantine can be voluntary, but in a public health emergency, officials have the authority to quarantine people who have been exposed to an infectious disease.

NOTE: Critical infrastructure employees with no symptoms may be required to report to work.



covid.sd.gov