

The Hamlin School District has created this plan through to create a safe and caring learning environment while reducing the impact of COVID-19 for students, staff, and community members. The Hamlin School District will make adjustments based on guidance from the SD Department of Health, SD Department of Education and CDC, virus spread in our community and surrounding areas, all in the best interest of our students and staff. The education of our students, as well as their physical and emotional health, are our priorities. This reopening plan is the Hamlin School District's approach to starting school on August 19, 2021. Simply stated, our approach is to resume school operations as close to normal as possible with implementation of health and safety precautions for students and staff, recognizing that there will be changes and adaptations as our local climate changes. The SD Department of Health will alert the school of any student in the school who has tested positive. A general notification phone call will be sent to parents/guardians of students who are identified as close contacts. **If a person is deemed a close contact by the South Dakota Department of Health, the district will uphold their findings and exclude them per DOH recommendations for 72 hours from the point of exposure. A person can return to school at that time if they are symptom free and wear a mask for days 4-10.** The Hamlin Board of Education recognizes that school staff members are critical infrastructure employees. The CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may continue working even if identified as a close contact to a positive COVID case, provided they remain asymptomatic and take necessary precautions. Staff members will be required to wear a mask for the 10-day period while at work and self-monitor for symptoms. If notified and showing symptoms, staff members will be required to quarantine at that time. **The school district will not require students or staff to wear face coverings throughout the school day (including buses), unless the district later determines that the increased use of masking is required.**

### **Social Distancing**

When possible/feasible, the school will:

- Minimize opportunities for sustained exposure by ensuring sufficient social distancing with at least 6 feet between people whenever possible
- Provide reminders for students and staff to stay at least 6 feet apart from one another when feasible
- When feasible, place physical barriers such as plexi-glass for protection at reception desks and similar areas as determined by district administration and staff.

### **Respiratory Etiquette**

The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection. Individuals should:

- cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;

- perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

### **Handwashing/Hygiene**

The Hamlin School District will:

- provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and older children, paper towels, and tissues)
- teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children
- increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff
- supervise use of hand sanitizer by students
- ensure that children with skin reactions and contraindications to hand sanitizer use soap and water
- reinforce hand washing during key times such as: - before, during, and after preparing food; before eating food, after using the toilet, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, after touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other individuals
- Require staff and students to stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet DOH criteria for return.
- Encourage staff and students to follow DOH quarantine if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

### **School Closure/Continuity of School Services**

In the event that the educational setting is changed from in-person to remote and/or hybrid, students will be supplied with the technology to use at home. Teachers will use Google Classroom to instruct, assess, and provide feedback to students. Meals will be provided by the school nutrition program. The school counselor will be in communication with staff and families to provide support to any students struggling with mental health.