

Willow Lake School District No. 12-3

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Willow Lake School District prioritizes the safety and well-being of our students, staff and community. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues we would like to take this time to reinforce some of the safety measures and mitigation steps we will be utilizing for the upcoming school year.

- Each morning please screen your child/children for the following:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea,vomiting or diarrhea

If your child/children are experiencing any of these symptoms, **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.**

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. Although the school district cannot guarantee that it can meet any suggested guidelines at 100%, it will put in measures that will promote a healthy environment.

2023-2024 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan

All Plans on this Document are Subject to Change with Administration Action

Date of School Board Approval: August 9, 2021.

Reviewed on: August 8, 2022—December 12, 2022—June 12, 2023—December 11, 2023

Pre-Screening for Students: We encourage parents to screen their children at home before school starts. Please keep your children home if sick. Students with a temperature of 100 or higher will need to be isolated and parents will be expected to pick them up from school.

Vaccination: We encourage families to follow current CDC guidance but will not be requiring Covid-19 vaccinations.

Transportation: Social Distancing will be hard to achieve when riding the school bus. We offer bus routes as an option for parents; it is up to every family whether you want your children to ride or not. Masks will be available on the bus but will not be required at this time. Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus and each bus will be cleaned frequently.

School Entrances: Doors will open at 8:00.

School Breakfast Program: Plexiglass protectors are in place between the kitchen staff and the students. We will also

utilize alternate areas to encourage social distancing.

Masks: At this time masks are optional and not a requirement. If masks are worn, they should cover both the nose and mouth.

Surface Cleaning: Surfaces will be cleaned with FDEA approved cleaners.

Classrooms: Classrooms will be organized to promote social distancing. Minimize sharing of classroom materials and staff will disinfect surfaces using FDEA approved cleaners. Each student is encouraged to bring their own water bottle.

Lunch: Plexiglass protectors are in place between the kitchen staff and the students. We will also utilize alternate areas to encourage social distancing.

Restrooms: All restrooms will be cleaned multiple times each day using FDEA approved cleaning disinfectant. Water bottle filling stations will be available.

Visitors to School: To limit outside exposure, we will limit access to persons who are not school employees or students. Please make an appointment when you would like to visit.

Response to Students who become COVID symptomatic during the day: The Willow Lake School District will follow guidance from the South Dakota Department of Health. If a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student/staff member will be sent home.

Extracurricular Activities: We will follow guidelines set forth by the SDHSAA.

Students on an IEP: Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety needs will be met through the IEP process. Addendums to individual plans will be made following SPED procedures.

The school district will ensure the continuity of services for students needing to be home as a close contact or being diagnosed as COVID positive. Students who are required to be home during quarantine or isolation will be able to remote learn. Their assignments will be available on Google Classroom or communicated through the teacher.

Learning Loss: is being addressed through summer interventions for students in grades kindergarten through fifth. Interventions will be determined through end of the year assessments. Teachers will instruct students using standard based material. Students in grades 6-12 who experience learning loss will be offered credit recovery classes through providers such as DIAL and South Dakota Virtual School. Students will have an in-house mentor to help guide progress in classes.

Student/Staff Hygiene: Hand Sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and at building entrances. Bathroom breaks will be scheduled to encourage social distancing and frequent handwashing. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or use the inside of the elbow. Signage will be posted to promote proper hygiene practices. The school district will opt-out of the asymptomatic screening testing and symptomatic on-site testing offered by the SD DOH. Individuals who need a COVID-19 test will need to contact their primary care provider for additional information.

Positive Cases: For staff and students testing positive for COVID-19, we will follow the CDC and DOH recommended isolation requirement. There will be two options when a positive COVID case is reported, individuals may choose one (1) of the following:

- 10-day isolation from the onset of symptoms and return when symptom free.

- 5-day isolation, may return to school and activities if symptom free and wears a mask for an additional 5-days in school, at practice, and school activities.

1. The school will support the need for those students and staff to isolate.
2. Medical exempt absences and remote work would be offered to students.

Quarantine Protocols: Students identified as a close contact at school to a confirmed positive case for Covid-19:

- Students will not be required to quarantine unless they become symptomatic.
- Quarantine Protocols may be adjusted as necessary to meet any unforeseen issues with Covid-19 spread.

Student/Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health: The Willow Lake School District continue to meet student social, emotional, and mental health needs through the following avenues:

- District provided counseling services
- Self-care programming appropriate to each grade level
- District coordinated counseling services
- Positive relationship building between students and staff

The Willow Lake School District will continue to meet staff social, emotional, and mental health needs through the following avenues:

- Encourage use of personal days
- Encourage communication and collaboration amongst all staff members in order to promote healthy working relationships
- Maintain a warm and positive school climate and culture
- District coordinated counseling services

Elastic Clause: The degree of uncertainty that surrounds this pandemic, as well as the lack of precedence upon which to rely in drafting plans to continue the essential process of education during these times, makes it essential that district plans be adjusted in response to changing conditions. The district school board and administration reserve the right to adjust this plan in response to changing guidance from local, state, and federal agencies; changing infection rates; etc. In addition, the district remains firmly committed to doing all that we can to protect the health and well-being of our students and staff, and to that effect will constantly evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of the measures contained in the plan. The district reserves the right to change this plan as deemed necessary by that evaluation process.