
HEALTH & SAFETY SMART RESTART PLAN

Ashley School Board Approved
August 12, 2020
Updated and Reviewed: June 7, 2021

‘Reaching full potential through
seeing, doing, and applying!’



Dear Ashley School Families,

It has been difficult for our entire community since March 2020, but we hope you have found ways to cope and embrace these new circumstances. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and community members who have helped us succeed in these hard times.

The challenge now is going to be keeping kids safe and in school. This is a daunting task as we all realize how the impact and response to COVID-19 has changed and continues to change rapidly. This plan will try to address these issues, while providing a flexible framework to guide our response over the 2021-2022 school year.

For academic and social-emotional reasons, we are compelled to strive to keep a face-to-face model. Yet, we cannot disregard that the health and safety concerns associated with the virus remain. The goal of the school is to keep the students, staff, and community safe, while also providing each student with a quality education.

We realize that reviewing this plan may not address every question you have. We recognize there are strong opinions about what the school should or should not do. We must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so we can move forward. We will continue to monitor and address this plan throughout the school year.

Thank you for your time reviewing this plan. As of now we will be coming back to school in the fall normal. Things could change depending on the color of our county and amount of cases in our school. We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we continue to move forward. We believe our school will continue to provide quality education to our children in a safe manner if we work together to solve problems. We will continue to ask for grace and understanding as we work through these unprecedented challenges together. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. It is truly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Jason Schmidt
Superintendent

Lyle Fey
School Board President

Assumptions & Assurances

Ashley School believes:

- Every student should have the opportunity to engage in learning
- Schools have a vital role in providing safe environments for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health.
- By working together with staff, health care professionals, parents, students, and community members we can solve most challenges.
- Our district will make decisions based on information provided by local, state, and federal health care officials.
- Our School Board will ensure our plan meets the needs of our students, staff, and community.

Our Planning Team

Input was gathered by various means to allow for a wide range of information. This group reviewed input gathered from our employees and parents. We will continue to use this team as needed. The Ashley School's Return to Learning Plan was crafted and reviewed by a team consisting of the following:

- Administration
- Staff
- Parents
- School Board members
- Students
- Local Public Health Officials

COVID-19 Building Level Coordinator

Jason Schmidt is the COVID-19 Coordinator and will be responsible for the health and safety preparedness and response planning. Coordinator responsibilities:

- Be available to the NDDoH 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to respond to phone calls from public health.
- Assist public health in identifying close contacts in the school setting.
- Report cases of COVID-19 found in the school setting to local health officials and the State Superintendent's office.
- Notify families and staff of any positive cases located in the Ashley School building.

Jason Schmidt will assume the role of building level coordinator in the Ashley School Building. If he is unable to be reached, the secondary contact will be Chris Doane.



Phases

At the Ashley Public School, we believe that it is critically important for all of our students to attend school in person as much as possible. It is our intent to use the state “odometer” for risk level to adjust our practices to align with the risk level in our state, school district, county or local health unit, whichever we are advised to abide by at the time. The governor, in consultation with the North Dakota Department of Health, will make the determination if and when the state or a specific county may change colors. The following phases will be used to define the community risk level associated with COVID-19. These phases align with the color-coded guidance in the ND Smart Restart Plan. Each level is reported to schools by the NDDoH after rigorous testing and assessment of cases in the community. [ND Smart Restart Plan](#)



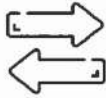
Instructional Models

The instructional models used by the district will be guided, in part, by the risk level of COVID-19 in the community as defined within the phases above. This is a guide as instructional models could be altered based on other factors, such as occupancy levels, age of children, and abilities to move certain classes online.



Traditional Learning

All instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule. Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety.



Blended(Hybrid) Learning

Students report to school on a modified schedule. Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate to meet the educational needs through a variety of delivery models.

Option A: PK-6 onsite, 7-8-9 onsite M/W & distant learning T/TH; 10-11-12 onsite T/TH & distant learning on M/W; Alternating Fridays

Option B: PK-12 blended every other day alternating onsite & distant learning



Distance Learning (Microsoft Teams)

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources or suited to the unique needs of the student.

Risk/ Activity	Critical	High	Moderate	Low	New Normal
School	Fully Online	Online- Students needing additional support in the building with precautions	-Still can have in person, preparing for Online or blended -A blended learning decided by the school. Also preparing for online. -Online groups may be allowed	Mostly in person; high health risk, family choice, or quarantine individuals learning online. Masks recommended.	School as normal with additional safety routines. Masks recommended.
Food Service	Additional precautions	Limit Contact - *Sack lunch available for pickup	In school and *sack lunch available for pickup; Socially Distant lunch breaks	Fairly normal lunch routine.	Lunch as normal
Cleaning	Minimal: building empty	Clean x2 where people are using the building	Routine cleaning with extra disinfection of high touch/use areas.	Routine cleaning with extra disinfection of high touch/use areas.	Normal cleaning routine with additional disinfection procedures

*Food service will be delayed when beginning sack lunches.

Health and Safety Guidance

The district strives to provide a healthy and safe environment for all who occupy our schools. The following guidelines are intended to provide a framework for the district's response to COVID-19.

Resources

ND Department of Public Instruction - <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/nddpi-updates-and-guidance-covid-19>

ND Department of Health - <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Best Intentions

Despite taking every reasonable precaution, **there is no guarantee that our school will be without risk as it relates to COVID-19.** The virus may be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. In certain situations, social distancing is not possible in a school setting. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, will not prevent any student or staff member from being in contact with the virus. If COVID-19 is present in our school we will use additional safety precautions.

Protect Yourself and Others

Wash your hands often



- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol throughout the day.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the day.

Avoid close contact



- Keep social distance from others (especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting sick).
- There will be limited sharing of items. Each student will be responsible for their own materials. Lists will be provided by teachers.
- Physical separation on busses will be recommended, but cannot be guaranteed.

Cover coughs and sneezes



- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

Clean and disinfect



- School staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as light switches, door handles.
- Bathrooms cleaned multiple times a day.
- Classrooms will be cleaned daily by custodial staff.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.



- Masks are highly recommended within 6 feet but it is an individual choice.
- If no social distancing options are available on the buses, masks may be required. (excluding extracurricular activities)



Monitor your health daily

- Be alert for symptoms. CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Use the screening guidance provided (see screening sheet--last page).
- Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
- Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.
 - Symptomatic students will be isolated, and their guardians contacted.

Health & Safety Protocols

Student & Staff Health

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. Ashley School will take the following measures to ensure all students, and staff are healthy while they are at school.

Identifying Students & Staff at Higher Risk

- Families are expected to notify the school if their child is at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. This information will be provided to Mr. Schmidt who will contact the family and each situation will be handled case by case.
- Employees are expected to notify the school if they are at-risk, based on a health professional's diagnosis. This situation will be handled case by case.

Isolation & Quarantine

- Isolation – For people who are already sick from the virus. A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with the virus from healthy people.
- Quarantine – For people who are not sick but have been exposed to the virus. A prevention strategy used to monitor people who were exposed for a period of time.
- Ashley Public School will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by NDDOH and local Health Unit.

If a student or staff members becomes sick at school (or school event)

- Student
 - The child shall be provided a facial covering and isolated in a safe place.
 - Parent / guardian will be contacted to pick up their child.
- Staff
 - Inform their supervisor immediately and wear a face mask and social distance as able until they can be replaced if supervising students at that time.
 - Leave the school building/grounds and consult with a health care professional.

Return to School

- When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined based on a positive COVID test, the student or staff member may return to school in accordance with NDDoH or CDC guidelines.

Transportation

We will go back to normal transportation from here on out. As stated earlier, if there is a COVID-19 breakout in the school or a county color change precautions may be put into place. The school district understands that students will not be able to follow distancing guidelines if all route buses have their normal number of riders. We ask that parents are diligent about checking temperatures and going through the checklist within this document prior to sending students to school on the bus. **It is strongly recommended that when possible, parents bring their children to school and pick them up to avoid bus overcrowding.**

- Rural routes may social distance with assigned seats by family.
- All students riding the city bus will not be required to wear a mask. If needed we may have to wear masks to prevent a spread. If this is the case, we will follow the same procedures as the 2020-2021 school year. Masks will be put in a brown paper bag (provided by school) when they get into their classroom, or will be stored in a brown paper bag in their locker. The school will provide a mask if needed.
- Routes may change throughout the year.
- Parents picking up/dropping off students should remain in their vehicles.
- Routes may be suspended during the year if our levels and/or protocols change.

Guidance for Grade Level & School Building Level Closure

This is intended as guidance for COVID-19 Coordinators and school leaders on when to close classrooms, grades, and buildings.

- Close contact is defined as being within 6 ft. of another individual for 15 min or greater.
- If a school is closed for any length of time, the district will determine which mode of instruction will resume.

Blue / Green	
Priorities:	• Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home. • Implement reasonable accommodations to reduce school-wide and community spread.
Districtwide Practices:	• Social distancing where possible and reasonable. • Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high touch/traffic areas. • Handwashing integrated throughout the day. • Hand sanitizer available throughout the building. • Support parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources.
School:	• Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled. • Access to building will be limited, with new protocols.
Classrooms:	• Students issued “technology” and teach them how to access online learning resources including system adopted by school. • Limited use of shared materials and supplies.

	• Desks arranged to allow social distancing where possible and reasonable. • Recommend staff and students working in close proximity wear a face covering.
Common Areas:	• Students when moving around the building will move in groups and reasonably try to limit exposure to other groups. • Lunch times and location may be altered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.
Extracurricular& Activities:	• Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and the South Border co-op board will be used to guide these activities.
Communications:	Center for Disease Control and Prevention - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/20-nCoV/index.html

Yellow	
Priorities:	• Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home. • Maximize social distancing where possible. • Support blended learning model.
Districtwide Practices:	• Based on identified COVID cases of students and staff targeted closures may be implemented (class, grade, department, etc). While other classes remain open and meeting students in person. • Social distancing where possible and reasonable. • Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high touch/traffic areas. • Handwashing integrated throughout the day. • Hand sanitizer available throughout each building. • Support parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources. • For technology support please contact Mr. Doane
School:	• Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled. • Access to building will be additionally limited, with new protocols.
Classrooms:	• Students may be attending school on a hybrid schedule. • Students will be expected to engage in learning opportunities online on days they are not in school. • Teachers are expected to make direct student/family contact every school day. • Limited use of shared materials and supplies when students are in school.

	• Desks arranged to allow for social distancing where possible and reasonable. • Recommend staff and students working in close proximity wear a face covering.
Common Areas:	• Students when moving around the building will move in groups and reasonably try to limit exposure to other groups. • Lunch times and location may be altered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.
Extracurricular& Activities:	• Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and the South Border co-op board will be used to guide these activities.
Communications:	Center for Disease Control and Prevention - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html
Orange / Red	
Priorities:	• Reduce the risk of community spread by closing schools.
Districtwide Practices:	• Online instruction will be used district wide in all courses at all grade levels. • Instruction will focus on essential learning targets. • Attendance and academic progress will be expected. • Grading policies will not be suspended. • Local food distribution may be implemented by food service program.
Schools:	• Closed to the general public except by special arrangement with administration. • Small group meetings or instruction may be allowed, particularly for special needs students or academic interventions.
Classrooms:	• Students will engage in learning at the home. • Students will be expected to engage in learning opportunities online. • Teachers are expected to make direct student/family contact daily, following the school calendar.
Extracurricular& Activities:	• Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and the South Border co-op board will be used to guide these activities. • Athletic and other extra/co-curricular activities likely suspended.



BEFORE SCHOOL!



Parents are asked to review this daily health checklist by answering these questions before sending their child to school.

(Parents do not need to send the questionnaire to school)

Has your child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes____ No____

Does your child have a new or worsening shortness of breath?

Yes____ No____

Does your child have new or worsening cough?

Yes____ No____

Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?

Yes____ No____

***Please note that a fever does not confirm your child has Covid-19 but it does indicate your child is sick and should stay home.**

Does your child have chills?

Yes____ No____

Does your child have a sore throat?

Yes____ No____

Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?

Yes____ No____



If **YES** to any of the questions **STOP!**

Do not send your child to school. Contact your healthcare provider. Contact your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.



If you are able to answer **NO** to all questions, go to school.

COVID-19: What's the Difference Between Physical Distancing, Quarantine and Isolation?

	PHYSICAL DISTANCING	QUARANTINE	ISOLATION
Who is it for?	People who haven't been exposed to the virus or are not aware of exposure to the virus.	People who don't currently have symptoms of the virus but were exposed to the virus.	People who are already sick from the virus.
What is it?	A precautionary measure used to help prevent the spread of the virus.	A prevention strategy used to monitor people who were exposed to the virus for a period of time to see if they become ill.	A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with the virus from healthy people.
Where does it take place?	Takes place outside the home in public places like grocery stores and work environments.	Takes place in a home setting.	Can take place in a home when medical attention is not required. Takes place in a hospital when medical care is required.
When do I use it?	At all times until further directed by the ND Department of Health.	If you have recently traveled internationally or have known exposure to the virus.	If you have tested positive or have symptoms and have not yet obtained a test.
How long is it for?	At all times until further directed by the ND Department of Health.	14 days after your last exposure. Once your quarantine period has ended, if you do not have symptoms, you may return to your normal routine.	A minimum of 10 days from the beginning of symptoms and 72 hours after your fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine and other symptoms have significantly improved.
What does this mean for my daily life?	• Avoid large gatherings. • Stay 6-feet away from people. • If you are unable to stay 6-feet away from other people, wear a cloth face covering. • Call or video-chat with friends or loved ones, particularly those that are elderly or have underlying health conditions that places them at high-risk. • If possible, work from home. • Practice good hygiene and avoid shaking hands or touching your face. • If you become ill and need medical attention, call your health care provider.	• Stay at home and avoid close contact with others. • Do not attend school, work or any other setting where you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance from other people. • Call or video-chat loved ones. • For food, medication and other necessities, obtain through friends or family, or use a contactless delivery service. • Practice standard hygiene and precautionary measures like not sharing household items, washing your hands, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces often. • Monitor your symptoms. If you become ill and need medical attention, call your health care provider.	• Do not leave your home unless it is in an emergency. If you are in a home with others, stay in a "sick" room by yourself and, if possible, do not share a bathroom. • If you have a pet and live with others, do not touch your pet. • For food, medication and other necessities, obtain through friends or family, or use a contactless delivery service. Try to stock up for the duration of the isolation. • Practice standard hygiene and precautionary measures like not sharing household items, washing your hands, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces often. • If a caregiver cleans your room or bathroom, they should wear a mask and wait as long as possible after you've used the bathroom. • Contact your health care provider immediately if you experience severe symptoms.