



Bridgewater - Emery School District 30-3

Kim Aman, Elementary Principal
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Jason Bailey, Superintendent
Lori Jansen, Business Manager



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

The South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) supported the return to in-person learning in fall 2020 by providing local leaders with the data, resources, and technical assistance they needed to make sound decisions based on the needs of their students, local conditions, and the most up to date science. Most schools in South Dakota have been open the entire previous school year, and DOE expects this to continue in the school year 2021-22. Bridgewater Emery School District 30-3 was open the entire 2020-2021 school year and has developed a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. These guidelines have been developed following the information and guidance provided by the CDC, SD Department of Education, and SD Department of Health, as well as additional information from recognized K-12 educational agencies. Recommendations from our local committee comprised of parents, community members from both Bridgewater and Emery, teachers, and administration.

Bridgewater Emery School took into consideration the following five areas when developing the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:

- I. Health and Safety Strategies
- II. Continuity of Services

HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES

Bridgewater Emery School will provide a safe and supportive learning environment for in-person instruction to enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to work. CDC guidance and recommendations for prevention strategies will be considered and followed as needed to protect students, teachers, and staff, with the goal of slowing the spread of COVID-19. Students that have tested positive for Covid or are household contacts will quarantine for ten days.

- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Distance will be created between students as much as possible on school buses. Windows will be opened when appropriate to improve ventilation when it does not create a safety hazard. Family members are encouraged to sit together on the bus and to limit contact between other students, and students should sit in the same seats daily. Masks are required by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States. Buses will be sanitized on a regular schedule.
- Screening testing will be available at the school for unvaccinated individuals to identify infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before the development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Screening testing will assist Bridgewater Emery School District to promptly



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identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in-person education. CDC guidance states that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening testing and do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms. Isolation and quarantine procedures may change during the year and be based on the latest CDC and DOE guidelines. Each situation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Coordination with state and local health officials will be ongoing during the school year. The Bridgewater Emery School District will encourage the Covid vaccination and work through the county health nurse to set up a clinic or opportunities to get the vaccination.

Daily Mitigation

- Masks will be encouraged to be worn when practical in the school building by anyone unvaccinated. Students should bring their own masks or bring the mask provided by the school district. Disposable masks will be available as well. Well-fitting face masks with proper filtration will prevent the transmission of COVID-19 through respiratory droplets. The most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven, such as cotton and cotton blends, breathable, and in two or three fabric layers. Most students, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear masks. Those who cannot wear masks will not be required to wear them and will practice physical distancing.
- Physical distancing will be promoted by having students remain 3 feet apart in classrooms when possible and 6 feet apart in other parts of the building, depending on what activities are taking place.
- All students and staff will be reminded of proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Health education units and lessons will be used to teach proper handwashing and reinforce behaviors, as well as provide adequate supplies.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and throughout the building.
- Wipes and specific cleaning solutions to combat any germs on surfaces will be used by staff throughout the day. Shared spaces/rooms will be cleaned. Students will wipe down their desk/table area at the end of each period at the MS/HS level.
- Students will have staggered lunchtimes and social distance at tables.
- Dining areas will be disinfected after each use between student groups.
- Bipolar ionization will be utilized to disinfect particles in the air and on surfaces.



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- Students will be advised to use the right side of the hallway when moving throughout the building.
- Water bottle filling stations have been installed for the upcoming school year.
- All outside visitors will report to the main office.
- Cohorts will be utilized when appropriate.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Guidance from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, SD Department of Education, and SD Department of Health will be followed for all extra-curricular activities.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Bridgewater Emery School will strive to ensure continuity of services for all three scenarios described below, including in-person instruction, hybrid instruction, and remote instruction.

Families of students who are at increased risk of severe illness (including those with special healthcare needs) or who live with people at high risk will be given the option of virtual/remote instruction. If Bridgewater Emery School moves to Scenario Two or Scenario Three, in-person instruction will still be prioritized for English learners and students with disabilities who require special education and related services directly provided in school environments, as well as other students who may benefit from receiving essential instruction in a school setting.

Bridgewater Emery School will conduct active and specific outreach to underserved families, including students with disabilities and English learners, to communicate the health and safety measures the school has in place and strategies the school is implementing to mitigate against transmission. The outreach will include a language parents can understand and alternate formats using visual aids and services as needed to facilitate effective communication for all parents.



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Meal service will continue as needed, including free breakfast and lunch to families for every learning mode, including in-person, hybrid, and remote.

Southeastern Behavioral counseling services for families will continue during all three Scenarios, and where appropriate, Telehealth remote connections will be utilized. Staff members' social, emotional, and mental health needs will be a priority and assessed through frequent communication and Telehealth services.

Academic needs and learning loss will be addressed through the use of Google Classroom/Google Meets and a variety of research-based online learning programs in all subject areas, including math, reading, science, and social studies. Accelerating learning through instructional approaches, tutoring, and expanded learning time will be a priority. Diagnostic assessments will be used to identify skill gaps and provide support interventions as needed.

<p>Scenario One:</p> <p>All students and employees on-site</p>	<p>Bridgewater Emery School District will begin the year with Scenario One on August 18, 2021.</p> <p>All students and staff attend classes in school buildings 5 days per week unless remote learning has been chosen by parents. Modifications for families will be considered to better meet the needs of medically vulnerable students and families with a higher risk of severe illness.</p> <p>Enhanced safety protocols such as at-home health screenings, social distancing, Bipolar Ionization to disinfect air and surface areas, hand sanitizer and wipes in all rooms, and optional mask-wearing will be encouraged based on guidelines from the CDC, the SD DOH, and our local health care community. Students that have tested positive for Covid or are household contacts will quarantine for ten days.</p>
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<p>Scenario Two:</p> <p>Hybrid Plan</p>	<p>The Hybrid Plan will consist of Face-to-Face and Remote Learning. Students would be divided into two groups and attend on-site instruction in their building 2-3 days per week and engage in remote learning the other days. Microsoft Teams and/or Google Classroom platforms will be utilized.</p>
<p>Scenario Three:</p> <p>Online/Distance Learning Plan</p>	<p>All students would participate in the daily learning of new material, continued standard pacing, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and periodic assessments, and attendance will be taken daily. This scenario would be enacted if it is necessary to close the school again as directed by Governor Noem or the SD Department of Health. If we have outbreaks of COVID-19 in specific schools, we may enact individual school closures instead of district-wide closures.</p>

District Assurance of Regular Review

The South Dakota Department of Education will collect assurances from superintendents that Safe Return plans have been reviewed at these points during the school year:

- *December 2021 (in conjunction with December Child Count)*
- *June 2022 (in conjunction with Year-End Sign-off)*
- *December 2022 (in conjunction with December Child Count)*
- *June 2023 (in conjunction with Year-End Sign-off)*

Date Bridgewater Emery sought public input on whether to revise Safe Return plans:

July 12, 2021 _____

Date of Bridgewater Emery School Board Approval:

July 12, 2021 _____

Date of the last review of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:

July 13, 2020



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The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and continuity of Services Plan will be available on the Bridgewater Emery School District official website by August 20, 2021.

Contact for questions:

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Bridgewater Emery School District 30-3

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