
HEALTH & SAFETY SMART RESTART PLAN



Carrington School Board Approved
July 27, 2020

100 3rd AVENUE SOUTH: P.O. BOX 48
CARRINGTON, ND 58421
PHONE 701-652-3136
FAX 701-652-1243

JOEL LEMER, PRESIDENT
KEVIN WOLSKY, VICE PRESIDENT
TONIA ERICKSON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
ANGELA KUTZ, DIRECTOR
RANDY HOOEY, DIRECTOR
KIMARY EDLAND, BUSINESS MGR.



KRIS KUEHN, SUPERINTENDENT
DARRIN ROACH, H.S. PRINCIPAL
JENNA HELSETH, E.S. PRINCIPAL

Carrington School Families,

These are most certainly interesting and revolutionary times. I appreciate your patience as we navigate and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year, based on the guidance from national and state agencies, as well as public health officials.

The challenge now is planning for what school will look like during the 2020-2021 school year. This is a daunting task as we all realize how the impact and response to COVID-19 has changed rapidly over the past four months. This plan will try to address these challenges, while providing a flexible framework to guide our response over the next school year.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we are compelled to strive to return to a face to face model. Yet, we cannot disregard that the health and safety concerns associated with the virus remain. The district must consider all practical steps to keep our schools from contributing to virus spread in our community. We must also anticipate that there will be additional outbreaks, where we will move from in-person to online learning.

We believe that the Carrington Public Schools are well positioned to make those transitions rapidly while continuing to educate our students effectively, regardless of the medium.

We realize that reviewing this plan may not address every question you have. We recognize some concepts and actions may be polarizing, and there are strong opinions about what the school should do or should not. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so we can move forward.

Included in this plan, is the option for students to "opt-in" to full-time online learning, in the event you are uncomfortable sending your student back to face to face learning. We are asking that students that opt-in to online learning make that commitment for the duration of the quarter.

Thank you for your time reviewing this plan. It is important to recognize this as a living document, that is more than likely going to evolve, even as we move toward beginning the school year with face to face learning. We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward. Together, our school can continue to provide a high quality education to our children in a safe manner, as long as we work together to solve problems.

Sincerely,
Kris Kuehn
Superintendent

Assumptions & Assurances

Carrington School believes:

- Every student should have the opportunity to engage in learning, regardless of the spread of COVID-19 in our community.
- Schools have a vital role in providing safe environments for students, focusing on both social-emotional and physical health.
- By working together with educators, staff, health care professionals, parents, students, and community members we can solve most challenges.
- Our district will make decisions based on the most current guidance from local, state, and national health care officials.
- Our School Board will ensure our plan meets the needs of our students, educators, staff and community.

Our Planning Team

The Carrington School's Return to Learning Plan was crafted and reviewed by a team consisting of the following:

- Mr. Kris Kuehn, Superintendent
- Mrs. Jenna Helseth, Elementary Principal
- Mr. Darrin Roach, High School Principal
- Mrs. Joan Copenhaver, HS Counselor
- Mrs. April Foth, Elem. Principal
- Mrs. Connie Hafner, Elem. Teacher
- Mrs. Lindsay Pavelko, Clinical Counselor
- Mrs. Sheryl Roundy, Admin. Assistant
- Mrs. Jo Pollert, Admin. Assistant
- Dr. John Collins, Clinical Psychologist
- Mr. Joel Lemer, School Board President
- Mrs. Kimary Edland, Business Manager
- Mr. Pat Boehmer, High School Teacher
- Mr. Nathan Kruse, Chief of Police
- Mr. Thomas Sauby, Parent
- Dr. Michael Page, Foster County Medical Center
- Mrs. Lisa Hilbert, Public Health
- Mrs. Amber Kruse, Public Health
- Mrs. Ashly Wolsky, Special Education Director
- Ms. Claudia Park, Librarian
- Mrs. Robin Gisvold, Food Service Director
- Mr. Dale Perhus, Custodian
- Mr. Brian Dursma, Custodian

Input was gathered by various means to allow for a wide range of input, while maintaining social distancing.

COVID-19 Building Level Coordinators

Each school building will have an identified COVID-19 Coordinator who will be responsible for the health and safety preparedness and response planning. Coordinators will make themselves available to the NDDoH 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to respond to phone calls from public health. This position will assist public health in identifying and notifying close contacts in the school setting. The coordinator will report cases of COVID-19, found in the school setting, to health officials and the State Superintendent's office.



Kris Kuehn, Superintendent, will assume the role of building level coordinator for the Carrington School District. If he is unable to be reached the secondary contacts will be *Jenna Helseth and Darrin Roach*.

Phases

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](#)

Yellow

Heightened exposure risk.
Transmission is controlled.

Blue/Green

New normal. Maintain
standard precautions

Orange/Red

Significant transmission
and high risk of exposure.



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.



Distance Learning

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources or suited to the unique needs of the student. In the event of a school closure, all students will participate in this model. This model may be used instead of traditional learning if determined necessary by the student's IEP/504 team or chosen by their parents. If this mode is chosen by parents, students are committed to this mode on a quarterly basis. Students who must be absent from school due to a Covid-19 diagnosis or exposure will participate in distance learning to the extent possible and will follow traditional make-up work expectations.

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's will be without risk as it relates to COVID-19. The virus will 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.

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.
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- 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.
- Alternate or modified schedules, adjustments to use of common areas, use of outdoor spaces and other actions that increase physical separation may be considered.
- The sharing of instructional materials should be limited as much as possible.
- Physical separation on busing to the extent possible following district recommendations. We encourage parents to transport their students when possible to limit risk/exposure.
- The school will remain closed to all visitors (including parents) unless previously approved by school administration. Drop off and pick-up will take place outside the front doors.

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 should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Shared materials (not recommended) should be cleaned.
- Classrooms will be cleaned nightly by custodial staff.

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



- The wearing of masks will be applied in phases based on the phases within the [ND Smart Restart Guidance](#).
- Educators need to teach students how to properly wear a face covering so they are prepared to use them on school buses or other situations in close proximity with others.
 - Resources from NDDPI and the Carrington School District will be provided to teachers.
- In specific instances the wearing of a face covering (mask) may be required. These are explained in the table below.
- The wearing of face masks is not required in the Green or Yellow stage. In the Red stage it may be required if determined to be necessary in consultation with local health officials.



CARRINGTON COVID-19 PPE Guidance

STAFF	PPE
All Staff and Students	Welcomed to wear face coverings if they desire
Elementary Staff who work with students from multiple grade levels	Required to wear cloth face coverings or a face shield
Public facing staff (i.e. receptionists/clerical)	Plexiglass partition is in place

Monitor your health daily



- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Parents are asked to screen their children each day before sending them to school. Use the screening guidance provided (see appendix).
- 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. Carrington 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 asked to notify the building principal if their child is at-risk, based on a health professionals' diagnosis. The child's team (IEP, 504) will meet to discuss instructional model options.
- At risk staff members are encouraged to discuss their options with the Building Principal.
- When the NDDoH or Foster County Public Health Department informs the district of a staff member that is COVID-19 positive that information will be passed on to the Superintendent, as allowable within district policy and law. The Superintendent and Central Office will work with the building principal and the employee to coordinate adjustments to the work schedule or workplace.
- The building administrative assistants will keep documentation based on the number of students/staff by grade who have experienced Covid-19 symptoms.

Isolation & Quarantine

- Definitions (see appendix for more information).
 - 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.
- The Carrington School District will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by NDDoH and Foster County Health unit.

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

- Student
 - The students will be provided a face covering immediately, and directed/escorted to the office.
 - The child will be isolated in the building's sick room.
 - Parent /guardian will be contacted to pick up their child immediately
- Staff
 - Inform supervisor immediately and wear a face mask /shield until a replacement can be obtained 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 as directed by NDDoH or the Foster County Health Unit they will be allowed to return to school after being cleared by the NDDoH.

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 as defined as being within 6 ft. of another individual for 15 min or greater.
- If a school is closed for any length of time, distance learning will be the mode of instruction within 48 hours.
- NDDoH may close a school or district at their discretion.
- When the District has a confirmed COVID-19 case of a staff member or student, school will close for a minimum of 72 hours.
- When the District has two or more confirmed active cases the school will close for 14 days to reduce the spread.
- The T.E.A.M. After School Program will not be offered to begin the 20-21 school year.
- Elementary students will not be allowed in the building until 8:00 a.m., unless prior approval has been granted by Mrs. Helseth. For the health and safety of our students and staff, the district encourages students in grade 7-12 to not arrive earlier than necessary for class and/or breakfast.

Transportation

Safety & Health

- Busses will be disinfected at the completion of each trip.
- Hand sanitizer will be used at the entrance of each bus
- If our school reaches “Yellow” status, face masks will be required on buses by staff and students

Social/Emotional Learning

School Counselors will lead the Covid-19 social/emotional concerns by:

- working with classroom teachers and building principals
- reaching out to students who have chosen the distance learning mode
- hosting Zoom gatherings for students when in distance learning
- conduct regular classroom, small group, and individual sessions whether in the traditional or distance learning mode (including clinical counseling sessions with Mrs. Pavelko)

Operational Guidance

Blue / Green

Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure students and staff who are symptomatic stay at home.
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 and train parents on use of technology tools and online curricular resources.
Schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled. ● Elementary students will have limited interaction with students from other grade levels to the greatest extent possible
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited use of shared materials and supplies. ● Outdoor learning opportunities will be encouraged and/or utilized.
Common Areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lunch times and location for elementary may be altered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time. ● Elementary restroom use will be segregated by grade level. ● Specialized elementary classes will be conducted in alternate locations to minimize contact with common surfaces ● The playground will be divided into designated areas by grade level to minimize contact with common surfaces. Each grade level will use separate resources
Extracurricular & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities.
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share information about how to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Orange / Red

Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce the risk of community spread by closing schools.
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement internet access (wifi) hot spots around schools, to support distance learning for those that may not have it in their homes. ● Local food distribution may be implemented by food service program.
Schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small group meetings or instruction may be allowed, particularly for special needs students or academic interventions.
Extracurricular & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance and directives from the NDHSAA and other governing boards will be used to guide these activities. ● Athletic and other extra/co-curricular activities likely suspended.
Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication about academic expectations and grading shared with students and families. ● Share technology support resources for parents.

A collection of green virus-like icons with spikes and dots, scattered around the title.

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 shortness of breath that is not related to a chronic medical condition?
Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have a cough that is not related to a chronic medical condition?
Yes ___ No ___

Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?
Yes ___ No ___

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. If they still have symptoms after 24 hours, contact your child's physician. Contact your child's school to inform them of your child's absence. Your child may return to school when they have been symptom free for 24 hours.



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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.