
SAFE RETURN TO LEARNING AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN



Carrington School Board Approved
June 7, 2021

CARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 49

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Carrington School Families,

These are most certainly interesting and revolutionary times. I appreciate your patience as we navigate and prepare for the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 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 sixteen 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 will continue to educate using the ~~are~~ 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.

While we do not anticipate the need to teach virtually, we must keep that as an option, should we encounter another outbreak similar to what we saw in November and December 2020. 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 do. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so we can move forward.

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 Safe Return to Learning and Continuity of Services Plan was crafted and approved by the Carrington School District Board of Education.

Input was gathered by various means to allow for a wide range of input.

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 Chrystopher Bitz.

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

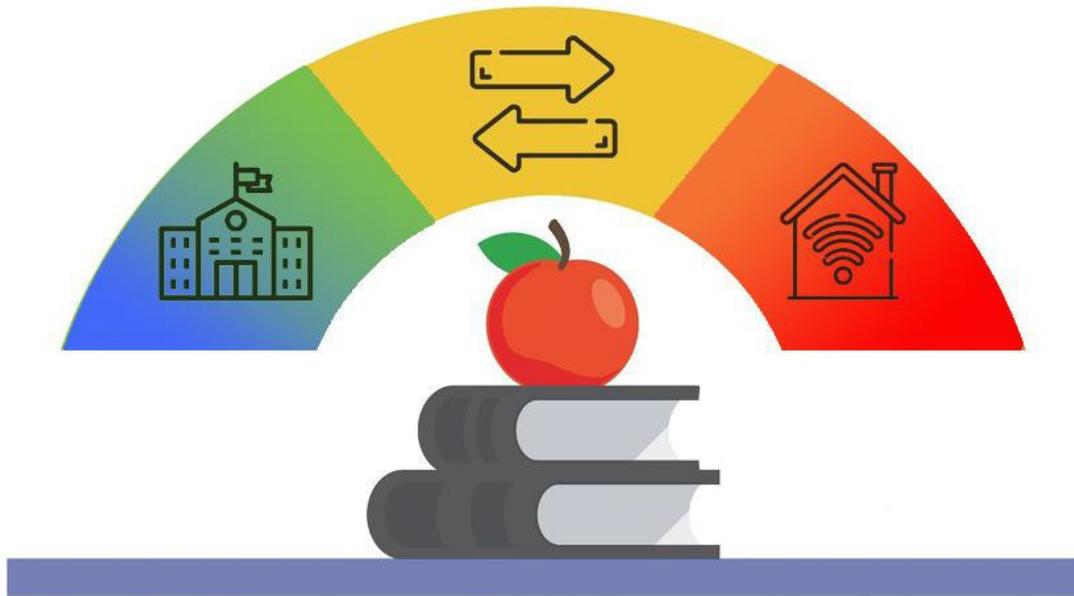
Heightened exposure risk.
Transmission is controlled.

Blue/Green

New normal.

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. 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.

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.

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 may 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.
- Face masks are 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.



Monitor your health daily

- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
- Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.

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.

Isolation & Quarantine

- Definitions
 - 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.

The school district will consider many factors in deciding when a transition will be made from one learning plan to another during the 2021-2022 school year. The district will consider the need for planning time with our students, staff, and parents when making a transition from one plan to another.

The following factors may be considered in transitioning between learning plans in 2021-2022; ND K12 Smart Restart and NDDoH- We will continue to follow the guidance that has been provided to school districts by the ND K12 Smart Restart Plan and also the North Dakota Department of Health. This includes the risk level designation that has been provided to individual counties at the beginning of September 2020 and also the positivity rate per 10K residents in Foster County. These assessments will be considered as additional factors for our decision- making in the school district.

- Close contact as defined by current CDC guidelines.
- NDDoH may close a school or district at their discretion.

Social/Emotional Learning

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

- working with classroom teachers and building principals
- 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.
Classrooms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited use of shared materials and supplies. • Outdoor learning opportunities will be encouraged and/or utilized.
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.

Orange / Red	
Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk of community spread.
Districtwide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online instruction may be used by grade, school, or district wide dependent on the situation. • Attendance and academic progress will be expected. • Grading policies will not be suspended. • 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. • Elementary students may have limited interaction with students from other grade levels
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.
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 may be segregated by grade level. • Specialized elementary classes may be conducted in alternate locations to minimize contact with common surfaces • The playground may be divided into designated areas by grade level to minimize contact with common surfaces.