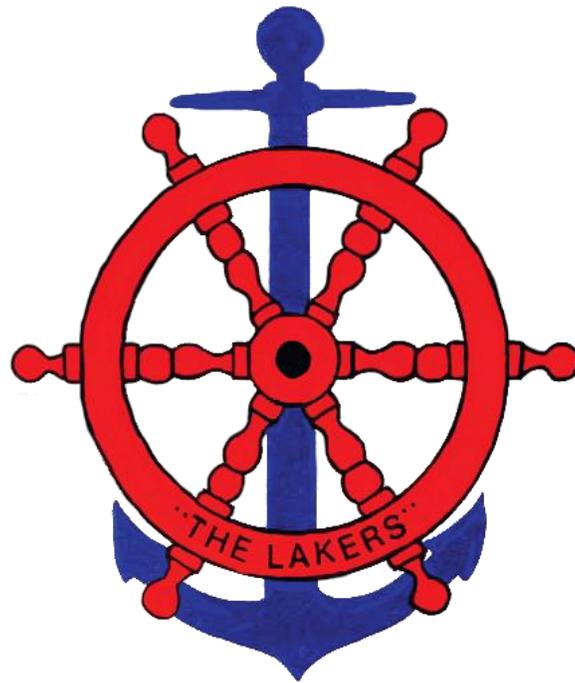


**COVID -19**  
Reopening Plan  
2021-2022



**Adopted June 10, 2021**

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\*United #7 is defining social distancing as 3' to 6' apart based on the recommendation of the American Pediatrics Association.

# Introduction

In March 2020, United #7 closed its school buildings for face-to-face (F2F) learning due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and related public health orders. For the remainder of the spring semester, students engaged in distance learning. Our preferred model of instruction is a F2F educational environment, we anticipate continued public health restrictions during the upcoming school year.

The purpose of this Reopening Plan is to maximize face-to-face (F2F) learning opportunities. United #7 has crafted a plan that allows us to respond quickly to changing local, regional, state, and national conditions. As conditions change, we may be forced to change how we provide instruction during the school year. United #7's Reopening Plan includes a three-phase system that outlines what students, staff, and parents can expect under different conditions. The Governor, in consultation with the NDDOH, will determine the color zone for the state, which will determine which phase in the Reopening Plan that United #7 will implement. If positive cases of COVID-19 are identified, United #7 will work with the local health department in conjunction with the state health department on a case-by-case basis to determine what action will be taken.

## PHASE I: MODIFIED ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

All PK- 12 grade students will attend school F2F full-time and schools will implement reasonable procedures in accordance with NDDOH's guidance. Parents will have the option to enroll their K-12 student in distance learning versus F2F instruction.

## PHASE II: HYBRID ALTERNATING LEARNING DAYS

Students in grades 9-12 will shift to a hybrid schedule with students learning F2F part-time and distance learning part-time. All students in grades PK-8 will continue attending school F2F daily. Parents will have the option to enroll their K-8 student in distance learning versus F2F instruction.

**PHASE III: DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ALL GRADES** Could include a local or state stay-at-home order.

United #7's Reopening Plan includes recommendations from health officials, and reasonable procedures to help mitigate risks and minimize the spread of COVID-19. To accomplish our goal of reopening schools, it is imperative that all students, staff, and parents do their part by following health department guidance, whether they are at school or out in the community. Everyone will also need to monitor their health and stay home if they are feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19.

United #7's Reopening Plan was drafted with input from parents, teachers, staff, and local health officials. It includes feedback from over 400 survey responses. **The plan is a living document and will be updated in accordance with new guidance from the Governor's office, the State Department of Public Instruction, the ND HS Activities Association, and local health officials.**

# United #7's Focus Everyday

- Provide a rigorous, **comprehensive education** for all students no matter the mode of instruction.
- **Respect health guidance** from the Centers for Disease Control and local/state health officials and adopt reasonable practices we can control to mitigate risks and minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- **Be flexible, empathetic, and ready to respond quickly** to support families as conditions change.
- **Clearly communicate shared expectations** for students, staff, and parents.
- **Ensure every student has a Chromebook** to use for F2F and distance learning.
- Provide **parents with support so they** can use tech tools and resources.

## PHASE I: ON-CAMPUS LEARNING

***United #7 schools will be instructing F2F for grades PK-12 but will incorporate health guidance and protocols to help mitigate risks and limit the spread of COVID-19. Here is what to expect:***

District-wide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing will be maintained where possible and reasonable.</li> <li>• Face coverings will be optional to be worn by all employees when social distancing is not attainable.</li> <li>• Face coverings will be optional to be worn by all students in grades when social distancing is not attainable.</li> <li>• Buildings will be routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines, with, special focus on high-traffic areas.</li> <li>• Hand washing will be integrated throughout the day.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer will be available throughout buildings.</li> <li>• Schools will share "<a href="#">Stop The Spread</a>" information with focus on preventative measures and symptoms.</li> </ul>
Classroom Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-12 students will be provided a distance learning option of education.</li> <li>• Students will be assigned their own learning device (Chromebook) in grades 7-12 which can be taken home. Elementary students (grades K-6) will have assigned learning devices in their classrooms.</li> <li>• Sharing of materials and supplies will be limited when necessary.</li> <li>• Desks will be arranged to allow for cohort groups and social distancing where possible and reasonable.</li> </ul>
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sneeze guards and other protective measures may be implemented in all offices if deemed necessary.</li> <li>• Some school events, assemblies, and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings if necessary.</li> <li>• Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for visitors to schools.</li> </ul>
Common Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will move in cohort groups when necessary and reasonable to try and limit possible exposure.</li> <li>• Schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways.</li> <li>• Lockers may be assigned in a way which limits close contact between classes.</li> <li>• Lunch times may be staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and allow for some social distancing. Some students may eat in other areas of the school or outside, weather permitting.</li> </ul>
Buses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing on school buses will be difficult so we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation to and from school if possible.</li> <li>• Students in grades 3-12 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear a face covering while riding the school buses.</li> <li>• Additional buses will run between the High School and Elementary School before and after the school day to minimize capacity.</li> </ul>
Extracurricular Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance and directives will be received from the ND High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.</li> <li>• All eligibility requirements will need to be met to participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities whether students are distance learning or F2F.</li> </ul>
<b>Phase I:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay at home.</li> <li>• Implement social distancing and cohort groups where possible and reasonable.</li> </ul>

## PHASE II: HYBRID ALTERNATING LEARNING DAYS

***Based on guidance from health officials, United #7 may shift to a hybrid schedule where students in grades 9-12 would learn F2F part-time and distance learn part-time, alternating days. Depending on conditions, hybrid schedules could be implemented in a single school or district wide. Here is what to expect:***

District-wide Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing and cohort groups will be implemented to reduce the number of students in classrooms and school buildings.</li> <li>• Face coverings may be required for all employees when social distancing is not attainable.</li> <li>• Face coverings will be encouraged, but not required, to be worn by all students in grades 3-12 when social distancing is not attainable.</li> <li>• Buildings will be routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines, with special focus on high-traffic areas.</li> <li>• Hand washing will be integrated throughout the day.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer will be available throughout buildings.</li> <li>• Schools will share "Stop the Spread" information with focus on preventative measures and symptoms.</li> </ul>
Classroom Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students in grades PK-8 will attend F2F classes.</li> <li>• K-8 students will be provided a distance learning option of education. If chosen, the student will continue with distance learning for a nine-week duration, or the remainder of the quarter whichever comes first.</li> <li>• Grades 9-12 attendance in the school will be reduced by dividing the student body into two groups:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>GROUP A</u>: students with the last name beginning with A through K:                    Mon., Thurs: F2F classes at the school                    Tues., Wed., Fri: distance learn from home</li> <li><u>GROUP B</u>: students with the last name beginning with L through Z:                    Mon., Wed., Thurs: distance learn from home                    Tues., Fri: F2F classes at the school</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wednesdays will be distance learning workdays for all students in grades 9-12 and office hours for teachers.</li> <li>• Teachers will teach their F2F classes with cameras to accommodate the anticipation that some students will need to be absent from F2F instruction due to COVID restrictions.</li> <li>• Group activity will be limited.</li> <li>• Recess will be staggered to allow one classroom on the playground at a time.</li> <li>• Students in grades 9-12 will have required scheduled times to meet 1-1 with their Laker Time teacher via Zoom on Wednesdays to review grades and goals.</li> </ul>
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sneeze guards and other protective measures may be implemented in all offices.</li> <li>• Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings.</li> <li>• Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for visitors to schools.</li> </ul>
Common Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will move in cohort groups where possible and feasible to try and limit possible exposure.</li> <li>• School schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways.</li> </ul>

Buses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students in grades 3-12 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear a face covering while riding the school buses.</li> <li>• Social distancing on school buses will be difficult so we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation to and from school if possible.</li> <li>• Buses will be filled from the back to the front.</li> <li>• An additional bus route will be run for Burlington town students.</li> <li>• Additional buses will run between the High School and Elementary School before and after the school day to minimize capacity.</li> </ul>
Extracurricular Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance and directives will be received from the ND High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.</li> <li>• All eligibility requirements will need to be met to participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities whether students are distance learning or F2F.</li> </ul>
<b>Priorities in Phase II:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay at home.</li> <li>• Maximize social distancing cohort groups by reducing the number of students in school buildings.</li> </ul>

## PHASE III: DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ALL GRADES

*In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, United #7 will close schools and shift to distance learning for all students. Based on local conditions, United #7 could close a single school or both schools. Here is what to expect:*

Distance Learning:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instruction will be rigorous and focused on key learning essentials in each grade and content area.</li><li>• Traditional grades and accountability measures will continue.</li><li>• Clear expectations and communication with students and families will continue.</li><li>• Some of the structure of a regular school day with online instruction and interaction with teachers, allowing some flexibility for families.</li><li>• Teachers will report to school and instruct from their classroom.</li><li>• Support and training for parents who need help accessing technology, tools, and online curriculum will be available</li><li>• If schools close and shift to distance learning for all students, families with preschool students will be prorated for the month and refunds will be given if necessary.</li></ul>
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closed to the general public except by special appointment.</li><li>• There may be opportunities for in-person small group instruction or intervention.</li></ul>
Extracurricular Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guidance and directives will be received from the ND High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.</li></ul>
<b>Priorities in Phase III:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the risk of further community spread by closing schools.</li></ul>

## BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

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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 a new or worsening cough?

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.*
- *Contact your healthcare provider.*
- *Contact your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.*

If you can answer **NO** to all questions you can send your child to school.

## Responding to a Potential Positive Case of COVID-19 or Close Contact to a Confirmed Positive Case of COVID-19

**A. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 OR was directed by a healthcare provider to stay home due to potentially testing positive, we ask that you:**

1. Notify the school of the positive test/healthcare directive.
2. DO NOT send your child to school **UNTIL** your medical provider or until the local health unit has cleared your return to school.

## Responding to Generalized Illness

**A. If a student becomes sick at school (or a school event):**

1. Staff will direct/escort the student to the office.
2. Staff will provide the student a mask/facial covering and direct the student to wait in the designated sick room until he or she can be picked up by a parent/guardian.
3. Staff will contact a parent/guardian to pick up their child

**B. If a staff member becomes sick at school (or a school event):**

1. The staff member will inform his or her building principal immediately and wear a mask/facial covering until he or she can be replaced (if supervising students at that time).
2. The staff member will leave the school building/grounds and consult with a healthcare professional.

## Responding to a confirmed case of COVID-19

**A. If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19:**

1. School superintendent will work with the local health department in conjunction with the state health department on a case-by-case basis to determine what action will be taken.

## Returning to school after a confirmed case of COVID-19

**A. Student or staff member returning to school:**

1. When a student or staff member has been isolated or quarantined as directed by NDDOH he or she will be allowed to return to school after being cleared by NDDOH.

# Student Services

## **A. Homelessness**

1. Our district anticipates increased support needs for students experiencing homelessness related to anxiety and trauma due to the pandemic. Our district will monitor evolving and emerging recommendations specifically pertaining to homeless students during the COVID-19 pandemic offered by school counselors and the homeless liaison. The United #7 School District Homeless Liaison and counselors will make initial contact with students and parents to ensure they know about the brown bag meal service program and plan for distance learning.
2. Ongoing communication via telephone, email, Instant Alert, and the school website will encourage students and parents to reach out if their living situation changes and to access additional support to promote every student's ability to participate in distance learning to include obtaining a computer and internet access. Students and parents will be given the phone numbers of the Homeless Liaison/principal to report difficulties participating in distance learning to use in connecting with school personnel who can help troubleshoot or identify options.
3. The district will maintain regular contact with the local social service agencies regarding ongoing or emerging needs and to connect to resources that can assist students and families experiencing homelessness.

## **B. Federal Title**

1. Our Title I teachers will be available to continue services through online tutoring for those students' distance learning. Teachers will continue to refer students for Title I services as needed.

## **C. Student Meals**

1. The United #7 School District will ensure that student meals will be able to be requested if needed in Phase III.

## **D. Counseling Services**

1. Our school counselors have developed a plan for students and families to reach them through email or phone call to the respective school. Students will have the opportunity to set up individual counseling sessions. Counselors will also reach out individually to students who they had been seeing on a regular basis. The counselors will use a HIPAA/FERPA approved format for online counseling sessions. Information for students in emergency and nonemergency situations will be available in the Counselor's Google Classroom. To make sure that the students can find this information, a link to the Counselor's Google Classroom will be available on the school website.

## **E. Special Education Consideration**

1. All educational decisions for students with IEPs will be made on an individual basis and consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the North Dakota Department of Instruction's Office of Special Education guidelines.
2. Our Special Education teachers have been working closely with Souris Valley Special Education Unit to ensure that all students with IEPs and 504 plans will be provided the same accommodations and modifications outlined in their IEP. Special Education teachers will work with regular education teachers to determine appropriate modifications for any electronic/home-based learning materials. For students that have a majority of special education minutes, they will have synchronous and asynchronous meetings with their special education teacher. These assignments may include General Education teacher assignment, or it could be something completely different related to one of the students' goals.

## Academics – Access and Learning Environment

### A. Learning Environment

1. In grades K-12, teachers will hold their regular, scheduled classes in all phases. Each teacher in grades K-12 will have a Google Classroom for their classes, and the beginning part of the school year will include time to make sure all students join the Google classrooms and are familiar with joining live classes, completing assignments, submitting assignments, and troubleshoot any technology issues they may have.
2. The school will make sure all students have an adequate electronic device for use at home. Those families that do not have a device or need more devices to cover all their K-12 students will be provided with them by the school.
3. The United #7 School District will make arrangements on a case-by-case basis with families who may have a student with a medical exemption to attend school in person.

## Resources/Links

- [CDC Considerations for Schools](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance for Schools-AAP](#)
- [STOP The SPREAD](#)