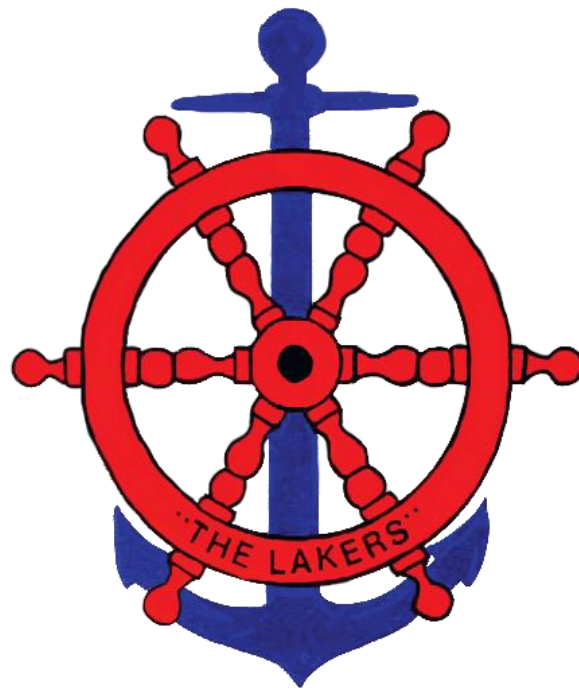


COVID -19
Fall 2020
Reopening Plan



Adopted August 3, 2020

Table of Contents

Message from the Superintendent	3
Introduction	4
United #7's Focus Everyday	4
PHASE I: MODIFIED ON-CAMPUS LEARNING.....	5
PHASE II: HYBRID ALTERNATING LEARNING DAYS (GRADES 9-12)	7
PHASE III: DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ALL GRADES	9
BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL	10
Responding to a Potential Positive Case of COVID-19	11
Responding to Close Contact with a Confirmed Positive Case of COVID-19	11
Responding to Generalized Illness	11
Responding to a Confirmed Case of COVID-19.....	12
Returning to School After a Confirmed Case of COVID-19	12
Next Steps.....	12
Resources/Links.....	12

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

Message from the Superintendent

It was a challenging ending to the school year, but I hope you have found ways to embrace the change to our typical routines. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and community members who helped us succeed in this period of remote learning and to end the 2019-20 school year well. I am proud of the way all of us responded to this crisis.

And now, we must consider what school will look like in the fall and how we can restore some form of in-person learning. This will be yet another daunting task we must undertake. We must create a quality and meaningful learning experience for our students, while also making sure we maintain a safe learning environment for our staff and students.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we are compelled to strive to return to an in-person learning model. However, we also cannot disregard that the threat of this virus remains, and we must take all practical steps to keep our schools from contributing to virus spread within our community. We must also anticipate that there will be additional outbreaks, creating cycles through which we will move from in-person to distant learning for some time.

This document presents our most current thinking. It represents hundreds of hours of research, scenario modeling, and work from United #7's dedicated and talented staff. We also solicited and reviewed feedback from our employee groups as well as our parents and patrons.

I know that seeing this plan, especially for the first time, may be a jarring experience. We recognize that some of the concepts might be polarizing, and there may be strong opinions about the path in front of us. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bachmeier
Superintendent
United Public School District #7

If you are not comfortable in sending your child to school with these guidelines, we ask that you please inform the school district as soon as you can that you would like to take part in a distance learning model for your child and we will discuss what the parameters are for that option.

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: MODIFIED 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"> • Social distancing will be maintained where possible and reasonable. • Face coverings will be required for all employees in the hallways, during passing times, and when social distancing is not attainable. • Face coverings will be encouraged, but not required, to be worn by all students in grades 3-12 when social distancing is not attainable. • Buildings will be routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines, with, special focus on high-traffic areas. • Hand washing will be integrated throughout the day. • Hand sanitizer will be available throughout buildings. • Schools will share "Stop The Spread" information with focus on preventative measures and symptoms.
Classroom Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 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. • 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. • Sharing of materials and supplies will be limited. • Desks will be arranged to allow for cohort groups and social distancing where possible and reasonable. • Staff working with students in close proximity will wear face coverings. • 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.
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneeze guards and other protective measures may be implemented in all offices. • Some school events, assemblies, and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings. • Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for visitors to schools.
Common Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will move in cohort groups where possible and reasonable to try and limit possible exposure. • Schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways. • Lockers will be assigned in a way which limits close contact between classes. • 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. Lunch will be pre-loaded on trays and served to the students. Students will not be punching in their lunch codes.
Buses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing on school buses will be difficult so we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation to and from school if possible. • Students in grades 3-12 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear a face covering while riding the school buses. • Buses will be filled from the back to the front. • An additional bus route will run for Burlington town students. • Additional buses will run between the High School and Elementary School before and after the school day to minimize capacity.

Extracurricular Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance and directives will be received from the ND High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.• All eligibility requirements will need to be met to participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities whether students are distance learning or F2F.
Priorities in Phase I:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay at home.• Implement social distancing and cohort groups where possible and reasonable.

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"> • Social distancing and cohort groups will be implemented to reduce the number of students in classrooms and school buildings. • Face coverings will be required for all employees in the hallways, during passing times, and when social distancing is not attainable. • Face coverings will be encouraged, but not required, to be worn by all students in grades 3-12 when social distancing is not attainable. • Buildings will be routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines, with special focus on high-traffic areas. • Hand washing will be integrated throughout the day. • Hand sanitizer will be available throughout buildings. • Schools will share "Stop the Spread" information with focus on preventative measures and symptoms.
Classroom Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students in grades PK-8 will attend F2F classes. • 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. • Grades 9-12 attendance in the school will be reduced by dividing the student body into two groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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 • <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 • Wednesdays will be distance learning workdays for all students in grades 9-12 and office hours for teachers. • 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. • Group activity will be limited. • Recess will be staggered to allow one classroom on the playground at a time. • 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.
School Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneeze guards and other protective measures may be implemented in all offices. • Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings. • Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for visitors to schools.
Common Spaces:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will move in cohort groups where possible and feasible to try and limit possible exposure. • School schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways.

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

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

BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO 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 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 child has isolated for at least 10 days from symptom onset and at least 3 days have passed since symptoms have improved OR your medical provider has determined a different illness than COVID-19 and cleared your return to school.
3. Prior to reentry of school a note from your healthcare provider or documentation must be provided to the school that gives clearance for student's return.
4. Your child will transition to distance learning during their isolation period.

B. If your child has had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone that has positive for COVID-19 we ask that you:

1. DO NOT send your child to school **UNTIL** your child has isolated for 14 days and experiences no COVID-19 symptoms. (If symptoms DO present during the isolation period, follow instructions above, Section A, for seeking medical guidance and possible testing for COVID-19).
2. Your child will transition to distance learning during their isolation period.

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
4. Your child will not transition to distance learning for the short time they are home sick and will be marked absent.

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.
2. First District Health Unit will start contact tracing.
3. The school district will coordinate efforts to communicate by text message, automated phone call, and/or school website to staff, students, and parents the possible exposure to COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

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.
2. Prior to reentry of school a note from their healthcare provider or documentation must be provided to the school that gives clearance for student's or staff member's return.

Next Steps

Early August 2020:

Administration will develop plans outlining how they will implement new health protocols in their schools/departments and special programs.

Training and staff development in new health protocols for all staff as they return in August.

Promote plan and new health protocols to parents and patrons.

Resources/Links

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