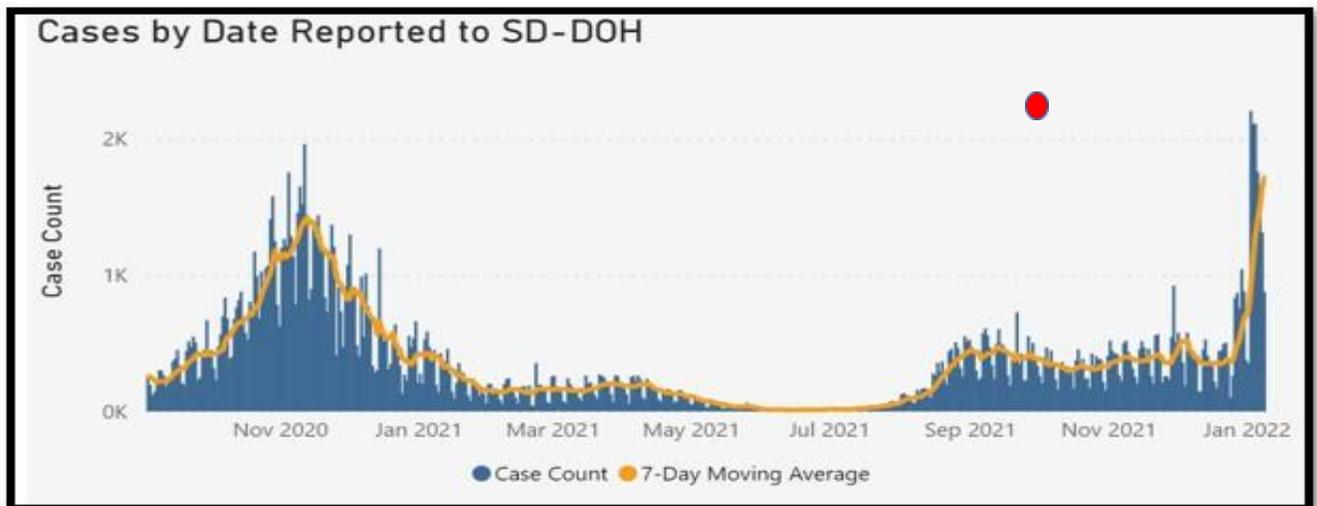


Tripp-Delmont School District Safe School Opening Plan
Level 2—YELLOW—Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission
Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

The justification for this decision is as follows:

- We currently have (4) staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 just in the last two days and who are symptomatic. Five (5) staff members have tested positive in the last seven school days
- Our district-wide attendance percentage last week was at 95%. In the last two days, our student attendance has gone from 88% attendance to **80% attendance** respectively and **31 students in grades PK-12 were absent today due to illness**
- Every county in South Dakota is currently experiencing **HIGH** Community spread of COVID-19.
- There are currently 20,750 active laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in South Dakota, but the number is likely much higher with over-the-counter tests not being reported to the SDDOH
- The state is currently experiencing the largest number of new cases of COVID-19 on record since the last record was set in November 2020. On January 11, 2022 over 4,000 new cases were reported to the SDDOH in one day.



County	Total Cases	Recovered Cases	Deceased Among Cases	Community Spread	% PCR Test Positivity Rate (Weekly)	Variants of Concern
Hutchinson	1460	1269	30	High	38.3%	16
Hyde	249	221	5	High	29.0%	0
Jackson	478	412	19	High	42.9%	2
Jerauld	344	313	19	High*	11.1%	0
Jones	154	149	1	High*	0.0%	0
Kingsbury	1089	994	20	High	35.9%	3
Lake	1964	1775	23	High	16.8%	2
Lawrence	5295	4774	77	High	29.3%	23
Lincoln	13334	11448	86	High	37.7%	118
Lyman	1026	864	12	High	37.0%	4
Marshall	605	538	8	High	26.3%	3
McCook	1181	1039	30	High	33.1%	11
McPherson	368	352	9	High*	7.7%	5
Meade	5548	5000	56	High	25.9%	33
Mellette	405	361	4	High	34.2%	3
Miner	407	368	12	High	25.6%	1
Minnehaha	48711	41761	443	High	39.0%	531
Moody	1074	941	25	High	32.8%	2
Oglala Lakota	3005	2580	55	High	42.8%	14
Pennington	25913	23001	292	High	35.2%	289

What you need to know about the Omicron Variant of COVID-19

- Early evidence is suggesting that Omicron will spread at a rate **two to three times** as likely as the Delta variant. Currently, Omicron cases in the United States are doubling every two to four days.
- Omicron is particularly good at infecting cells in the nose. When people literally just breathe out through their noses, they can release new virus particles into the air
- Omicron is also particularly good at dodging antibodies produced by vaccines and previous COVID-19 infections, opening doors for new infections for people who otherwise had vaccine protection from other variants
- Those who have had COVID-19 previously or who have been vaccinated may see less severe symptoms from Omicron, however Omicron has greater potential to infect people who have been previously vaccinated versus Delta or other variants
- Cloth masks are said to reduce Omicron viral particle load by 50%, much less than the Delta variant. The CDC is considering recommending the use of N95 masks to combat the Omicron variant. An N95 mask is approximately 90% efficient against Omicron particles.
- Omicron as a virus is less severe than the Delta variant or previous COVID-19 variants. The risk of hospitalization due to Omicron is half that of the Delta variant.
- Sore throat seems to be an early predictor of an Omicron infection and that anyone exhibiting flu or cold-like symptoms should assume they have COVID until proven otherwise

Omicron Variant and Protocols for Positive Cases

- The CDC has updated their quarantine and isolation guidance for the Omicron variant here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>
- If you are positive for COVID-19, the CDC recommends staying home for 5 days. People may end isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving
- If a person tests positive, but does not display any symptoms, isolation ends 5 days after the positive test. Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.
- If a person was severely ill with Omicron, the CDC recommends you should isolate for 10 days and consult your doctor
- **After Day 5, people may return to work/school, but individuals are highly-recommended to wear a mask (cloth, surgical, or better) for 5 additional days (Until Day 10) to reduce the potential for nasal respiration spread of Omicron. Our district will follow this guidance for all student and staff cases, but it is not updated yet in our Safety Plan.**
- Data from the CDC suggests that after seven days there is virtually no risk of transmission of the Omicron variant after someone has been infected

Protocols for Level 2—Yellow Mitigation

- Make sure you use our Tripp-Delmont School District Safe School Opening Plan as a resource (follow this link) <https://bit.ly/3GkGAit>
- **Go to Page 11 for LEVEL 2 YELLOW—Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission protocols**
- **District Protocols to focus on**
 - Handwashing and hand sanitization
 - Keeping unwashed hands away from the mouth, nose, and face
 - Practice good cough and sneeze etiquette
 - Custodial sanitization of high touch surfaces in the school
 - Social distancing when possible
 - Masks are highly-recommended for both students and staff, but not required
- **Classroom Protocols**
 - Handwashing and hand sanitization
 - Keeping unwashed hands away from the mouth, nose, and face
 - Practice good cough and sneeze etiquette
 - Custodial sanitization of high touch surfaces in the school
 - Social distancing when possible
 - Masks are highly-recommended for both students and staff, but not required
 - **Students are highly-recommended to bring their own water bottle versus using water fountains**
 - **Limit sharing of supplies as much as possible**
 - **Clean desks daily if possible with wipes or other cleaners**

At this time, we will not do temperature checks as a district or classrooms unless we suspect a fever for individual students, seating charts are not necessary because our district will not do contact tracing unless a classroom reports high levels of absences in the class, and social distancing practices should be implemented the best they can in a way that does not inhibit the learning of the students and their education.

Best Regards,

Jeremy Hurd
Superintendent/HS Principal
Tripp-Delmont School District 33-5