

**605**  
**STRONG**

The **Road** to  
**Recover**

# South Dakota's *Back to Normal* **Plan**

*Thanks to a strong commitment and respect for the principle of personal responsibility, South Dakotans have dramatically changed the trajectory of our initial COVID-19 projections. With our hospitalization capacity currently at a manageable level, South Dakotans are asked to consider the following steps as we look to get back to normal.*

- Governor Kristi Noem

[COVID.sd.gov](https://www.covid.sd.gov)

# South Dakota's Back to Normal Plan

## Individuals:

- ▶ Continue to [practice good hygiene](#)
- ▶ Continue to stay home when sick
- ▶ Continue to practice physical distancing, as appropriate
- ▶ [Vulnerable individuals](#) are at higher risk for this virus. Accordingly, they should:
  - » Take extra care to practice good hygiene
  - » Avoid those who are sick or those who have been exposed to people who are sick
  - » Consider staying home whenever possible

## Employers:

- ▶ Encourage good hygiene and [sanitation practices](#), especially in high-traffic areas
- ▶ Encourage employees to stay home when sick
- ▶ If previously operating via telework, begin transitioning employees back to the workplace
- ▶ Where appropriate, [screen employees](#) for symptoms prior to entering the workplace

## Enclosed Retail Businesses<sup>1</sup> that Promote Public Gatherings:

- ▶ Resume operations in a manner that allows for reasonable physical distancing, good hygiene, and appropriate sanitation
- ▶ Consider restricting occupancy and continue innovating in this uncertain environment

## Schools:

- ▶ Continue remote learning
- ▶ Consider a limited return to in-person instruction to “check in” before school year ends
- ▶ Encourage good hygiene and sanitation practices, especially in high-traffic areas

## Health Care Providers:

- ▶ Hospitals treating COVID-19 patients should reserve 30% of their hospital beds and maintain appropriate stores of PPE to meet surge demand
- ▶ Other hospitals and surgery centers must have updated transfer protocols and adequate stores of independently-sourced PPE
- ▶ Non-hospital healthcare can resume with adequate stores of independently sourced PPE
- ▶ Continue to restrict visits to senior care facilities and hospitals

## Local Governments:

- ▶ Consider current and future actions in light of these guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions ([Appendix 2](#)) will be kept up to date with further clarifications.

Note: The Governor and Department of Health may respond to significant clusters with enhanced mitigation on a county-by-county basis.

<sup>1</sup>As defined in [Executive Order 2020-08](#), this includes any indoor restaurant, bar, brewery, café, casino, coffee shop, recreational or athletic facility, health club, or entertainment venue.

# Criteria to Initiate Plan

## SYMPTOMS

Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within the last 14-day period

Plan in place so all persons with COVID-19 symptoms can receive a test upon recommendation from their provider

## CASES

Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period in areas with sustained community spread\*

No clusters that pose a risk to public\*\*

## HOSPITALS

Treat all patients without crisis care

Testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing

Adequate supply of independently procured personal protective equipment is available for all workforce and patients

## STATE

SD DOH has the capacity to rapidly investigate COVID-19 cases and initiate containment (isolation and quarantine)

SD EOC maintains a rapid response team to support high-risk businesses with a confirmed COVID-19 case

\*Either minimal/moderate or substantial community spread from the Community Impact Map. Map will be updated to reflect changes:

- Substantial to Minimal/Moderate: No active cases
- Minimal/Moderate to No Community Spread: No new community-acquired cases within 14 days and no active cases

\*\*Clusters that pose a risk to the public: 10 or more cases that are not confined to a single setting OR a large exposure event (>50 people) with currently increasing number of cases

# Frequently Asked Questions

## FAQs

**Q: When can churches and other places of worship resume religious services?**

**A:** Churches were never required to close; as they resume services, they are encouraged to consider the guidelines for “public gatherings” and to consider steps to maintain reasonable physical distancing.

**Q: Does this mean schools could resume in-person classes before the end of the school year?**

**A:** Each school district should make its own decisions about the remainder of the school year; school districts are encouraged to take steps to contact all students and assess student learning.

**Q: When can daycare centers reopen?**

**A:** Daycares were never explicitly required to close; they can reopen at any time and are encouraged to emphasize appropriate sanitation.

**Q: Do I have to keep wearing a mask when I am in public?**

**A:** Masks have never been required, but South Dakotans are encouraged to continue to consider [CDC guidance](#) and use.

**Q: Does this mean I no longer have to “stay at home”?**

**A:** South Dakota never issued a “stay at home” or “shelter in place” order. South Dakotans are encouraged to use common sense and practice good hygiene and reasonable physical distancing.

**Q: Are businesses, including outdoor venues and events, allowed to reopen?**

**A:** No business was ever required to close. Business are encouraged to consider these guidelines as they resume normal operations, and also must adhere to any local restrictions.

**Q: Is travel allowed to and from South Dakota, or within South Dakota?**

**A:** South Dakota never prohibited travel to or from other states, or within the state. South Dakotans and visitors from out of state are encouraged to use common sense.

**Q: Can doctors resume clinic visits? Can dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, and other healthcare providers resume operation?**

**A:** Non-hospital healthcare, including clinic visits, can resume so long as providers secure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment without relying on the state supply.