

605
STRONG

The **Road** to
Recovery

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 Businesses¹ 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.

¹As 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.