

Gallipolis City School District

Reopening Plan

July 15, 2020

First and foremost, the GCSD is taking all necessary steps to protect the health and safety of staff and students during this COVID-19 period. We are also discouraging activity that may contribute to the spread of the coronavirus. The governor has asked that districts provide educational opportunities and options for students returning to school in the fall. The GCSD is committed to providing options for families in order to meet the educational and special needs of our students. More importantly, we are committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of our community. In order to successfully accomplish these goals, it is important for school personnel and parents to work together collaboratively during this time to find ways to continue to serve and educate all students.

As of August 25, 2020, we will be returning to school (five days a week) with protocols in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We will also be offering an online option for families that don't feel comfortable sending their children back to school. However, if parents choose the virtual option, which is completely online, students will be required to commit to online learning for at least a full semester. In light of the current circumstances and low incident rates in Gallia County, we feel that these options are in the best interest of our community and support the recommendations set forth by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education for reopening of schools.

The Gallipolis City School District Board of Education, administration, and Gallia County Health Department have been working together in developing guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and staff for our return to school. The following guidelines have been put in place to deter the contraction and spread of COVID-19 in the school setting. We understand the importance of getting our students back in the classroom while at the same time ensuring a safe educational environment conducive of learning.

Throughout this unsettling time, our district is committed to transparent communications in regards to risks that may exist when students and staff occupy school facilities. Please know that we will continue to refine our plan and protocols with local health officials in order to ensure best practices throughout the school year. Although there is no way of knowing what may happen in the future, we will always be vigilant in our response to protect the community in which we serve.

As always, we appreciate your support and understanding during this time, and we look forward to seeing your student in August.

Expectations for Administrators, Teachers, and Support Staff

1. All school staff members must wear a face covering made of cloth/fabric that covers the employee's nose, mouth, and chin, unless an exception recognized by the Ohio Department of Health applies. A face shield made of flexible plastic that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below his or her chin may be an acceptable face covering under certain circumstances.
2. All staff will enforce the safety protocols set in place for students and staff during work hours.
3. All staff will follow the guidelines for reporting self-illness.
4. All staff will follow the guidelines for maintaining a safe distance from others with masks while on school property and during work hours.
5. All staff will complete required professional development specific to maintaining the health and safety of students and staff.
6. All staff shall maintain confidentiality of students and staff as it applies to medical and mental health issues.
7. Staff are expected to self-monitor and report any symptoms to their administrative supervisor.
8. Staff that suspect a child may have symptoms of illness should send the child to the school nurse for an assessment.

Remote Learning

1. Any student may sign up for remote learning on a semester or yearlong basis.
2. Online seats are limited, so students must sign up as soon as possible.
3. The GCSD will follow the guidelines for remote learning as specified in HB 164.

Classrooms

1. Classrooms will be free of clutter and unnecessary materials, furniture, etc.
2. Spaces must be easily accessible for regular sanitization.
3. Classrooms will be furnished with sanitizing stations for students and staff, and staff will encourage students to sanitize and wash their hands frequently.
4. Classrooms will be organized to ensure students and staff can maintain a safe distance while learning.
 - a. Kindergarten classrooms will have dividers on the tables to provide additional protection for students.
 - b. Grades 1-5 will have single-seat desks that are spaced to maintain safe distancing. For classrooms with tables, seating will be staggered with dividers in between providing an additional layer of protection for students and staff.
 - c. Grades 6-12 will have single-seat desks spaced to maintain safe distancing and/or dividers on tables.
 - d. Students working from a table or lab area will maintain safe distancing.
 - e. Teachers and students will maintain a safe distance while working together in the classroom.
 - f. Classrooms, restrooms, and pod areas will be sanitized on a regular schedule throughout the day by the building custodians.
 - g. Hallways in GAHS and GAMS will be one-way to ensure students can maintain a safe distance while changing class.

Student Masks

1. All students in grades 3-12 must wear face coverings while: (1) on a school district bus, (2) in the hallways and common areas of school buildings, and (3) in classrooms when physical distancing of six feet is not possible.
2. Students with pre-existing health issues or who may be considered high risk in grades PK-2 are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering and may request preferential seating in the classroom.
3. Requests for exceptions under this section as well as those necessary for students with a documented health or developmental condition shall be considered by the Superintendent/designee, who may request documentation justifying an exemption.
4. Students may request a reusable or disposable mask from the District, if needed, on a one-time basis.
5. Each student will receive two cloth masks at the beginning of the school year.
6. Students can only wear solid color or GCSD logoed face coverings. Face coverings and masks cannot be altered and must be school appropriate.

Transportation

1. Students riding a bus **will be required** to wear a face covering. Non-compliance will result in denial of transportation services.
2. Student ridership will be limited to two students per seat.
3. Students from the same family will sit together.
4. Students showing signs of illness shall not be transported on a bus.
5. Bus drivers will wear a mask or shield while driving.
6. Bus drivers will follow cleaning protocols, i.e.: disinfecting all seats, handles, and other surfaces at the end of each trip.

Student Health Assessment

1. Parents are responsible for monitoring their children for signs of illness and communicating with the school promptly if they think their child might be ill.
2. If a student has a temperature above 100.4 degrees or is experiencing other symptoms, the student should stay at home.

Students/Staff Diagnosed with COVID-19

1. When there is a confirmed case, the school nurse, in collaboration with the local health department, will communicate with families as appropriate and in accordance with all HIPAA regulations.
2. The GCSD will cooperate with the local health department for social contact tracing.
3. A 14-day quarantine will be required for any student or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19.
4. Staff or students determined to have "exposure" as regulated by the health department will follow the 14-day quarantine requirement. The School Nurse will work with the health department to notify the building principal and other stakeholders.

5. Each school will have a quarantine area for students who are suspected of having symptoms related to COVID-19. The student will be quarantined until the parent/guardian can pick up the child.
6. Staff and students are discouraged from traveling during the school year. If you travel to an area that is experiencing severe exposure and spread of COVID-19, a self-imposed quarantine should be done.

Student/Staff Health Issues (not related to COVID-19)

1. Persons with a temperature must stay home for 72 hours and be fever-free (without medication) before returning to school or as directed by the child's physician (physician documentation required)
2. Upon returning to the classroom or work, the individual's temperature will be taken, and a health assessment will be administered by the school nurse. The parent/guardian is responsible for transporting a child home if the student becomes ill while at school.

Food Service

1. K-5 will have breakfast served in classrooms. Lunches may be served in the classrooms or in the cafeterias and gymnasiums while maintaining safe distancing.
2. 6-12 will use the cafeterias and gyms for lunch and maintain safe distancing while eating. Breakfast for 6-12 will be grab-and-go.

Recess/Field Trips

1. Large group recess will not be permitted. Staff may take small groups of students on walks or outside for class with prior administrative approval.
2. Until further notice, Field Trips will not be permitted.