

GCS SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

(School Committee Approved Plan - 08/24/2021)

HEALTH and SAFETY GUIDANCE

- Vaccination -
 - The CDC strongly encourages all students and staff to obtain a complete COVID 19 vaccination when eligible. The district will host vaccination clinics at appropriate times . The district will be mandated to record volunteered vaccination status privately (for contact tracing). The district will be required to report the total number of fully vaccinated staff in Pre-K-12 to DHHS on a monthly basis.
- Masking -
 - CDC strongly recommends masking when indoors. Taking in consideration the social emotional wellbeing of our students, GCS plans to make mask wearing optional. **Per CDC requirement students must wear masks on all district transportation including but not limited to school busses and vehicles.**
- Distancing -
 - Students are encouraged to practice social distancing.
 - Distancing protocol may be initiated based on CDC community transmission levels.
 - Distancing is not required outdoors.
- Pooled Testing -
 - Opt-in pooled testing will be offered to all staff and students on a weekly basis in accordance with the Maine DOE guidelines and testing program to provide for early detection.
- Handwashing -
 - All students and staff continue to be encouraged to engage in frequent handwashing for 20 seconds; hand sanitizer will remain available.
- Symptom Check Protocol -
 - Administration will use the DOE approved COVID 19 symptom algorithm. Symptom checks must be conducted daily before school for all students and staff. Students and staff showing symptoms are required to stay home.
- COVID response to positive cases -
 - The GCS will follow current state guidelines for handling the occurrence of a COVID 19 positive case. As of July 2021, COVID 19 positive cases require reporting, contact tracing, and isolations for individuals who test positive, and quarantine for unvaccinated individuals with a close exposure. Positive cases identified by pooled testing will follow state DOE guidance for pooled testing. [Maine CDC SOP](#)

GCS SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

(School Committee Approved Plan - 08/24/2021)

- Cleaning Protocols -
 - Custodial staff will continue with cleaning and sanitizing in the building. CDC guidelines state that “cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces.”
- Social Emotional Wellness Supports -
 - K-12 School Counselor
 - K-12 Outside referrals
 - K-12 Continued professional development to support a trauma informed school community

ACADEMIC / INSTRUCTION

- Technology Readiness -
 - We will continue to incorporate technology in our teaching and learning in order to maintain successful platforms that were developed this past year and be ready to support distance learning if it becomes necessary. We will support learning platforms for students in isolation or quarantine.
- Hybrid/Remote Learning -
 - We are not planning to offer hybrid or remote options for all students. We will only provide limited, interim remote learning primarily through our learning platforms and synchronous instruction. To be considered for this limited remote learning, families would need to provide the school with documentation of medical necessity. If families would like more information about documentation needed they should contact their child’s school principal. Families who do not qualify for a medical exemption and are looking for a long term, full remote program for the 2021/22 school year should explore external options like Maine’s virtual charter schools, national virtual learning companies, or homeschool.
- K-12 -
 - After school enrichment and tutoring programs

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Visitors
 - Limited due to safety concerns and must be approved by the building principal.
- Meetings
 - Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend scheduled meetings in-person when possible. We will continue to utilize virtual meetings on a case-by-case basis depending on meeting participants and agenda.
- Special Events - (concerts, veterans day assembly, musical, graduation, etc)
 - We will resume traditional practices unless restricted due to CDC community transmission levels at the time of the event.

GCS SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

(School Committee Approved Plan - 08/24/2021)

- Extracurricular Activities -
 - We will follow general school-day guidelines; however we will take MPA recommendations into consideration.

CDC COMMUNITY TRANSITION LEVELS:

The CDC identifies four levels of community transmission and provides a county level map based on weekly new infection rates.

- **Blue** - Low Transmission (0-1.2 new cases/day OR 0-9.9 new cases/week per 100K population)
- **Yellow** - Moderate Transmission (1.2-7 new cases/day OR 10-49.9 new cases/week per 100K population)
- **Orange** - Substantial Transmission ((7.1-14.3 new cases/day OR 50-99.9 new cases/week per 100K population)
- **Red** - High Transmission (>14.3 new cases/day OR >= 100 new cases/week per 100K population)

[CDC COVID 19 County Tracker](#)