**Gallatin**

**County Schools**

Believe. Engage. Succeed.

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**bb**

**COVID-19 SCHOOL OPERATIONS PLAN**

**Vaccination**

Gallatin County School District (GCSD) will encourage all staff and eligible students to be vaccinated

**Mask Use**

GCSD will not require mask wearing of students or staff indoors or outdoors, but does encourage and recommends mask wearing. Masks will be provided to students who need them or want them.

Masks are required on public transportation, including buses operated by public and private school systems, for all persons two years of age or older unless otherwise exempted, in accordance with President Biden’s Executive Order and CDCs public health order.

**Physical Distancing**

As of August 11, 2021 GCSD will be socially distanced in all classrooms insofar as physical space permits. Unless physical space does not permit it, at least 3 feet will be used to separate students and staff. Whenever possible, all students will face the same direction. We will utilize assigned seats to also help mitigate student movement.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting**

GCSD will be cleaning once a day to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection. We will sanitize door handles, lockers, and other high touch areas. We will encourage handwashing and provide hand sanitization stations.

**Temperature Checks**

GCSD will implement temperature checks daily on students and screen and not permit infected students to enter or remain in school.

**Ventilation**

GCSD will turn on the HVAC units 2 hours before school starts each day. GCSD will leave the HVAC unit running 2 hours after school ends each day. Windows may be opened and teachers may hold class outdoors as weather permits.

**Educational Setting**

GCSD will monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, outbreaks, and trends with the assistance of the health department.

GCSD requests that students, teachers, and staff stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

GCSD request that students, teachers, and staff who test positive for COVID-19 report the positive test results as soon as possible to GCSD.

*“Maximizing Student Learning and Achievement”*

Determination: The Board has determined that these practices and policies will foster the safety of employees, students, visitors, and the community, including social distancing requirements, because they are consistent with the CDC Guidance, for our school.

The Superintendent is directed to implement and enforce this House Bill 1 plan, to post it on the School District’s website, and to have it posted at the entrance of each school building as required by 21 RS HB 1.

**Adopted the Gallatin County Board of Education, this day of 12, August, 2021**

**Update: On the first day of school, August 25th, 2021, the Mask Use section was updated to reflect the KDE’s emergency mask regulation. This section is as follows:**

All staff, students, and visitors (whether vaccinated or not) are required to wear a mask while indoors at the school campus or on the bus. Any change in mask plans will be communicated by the GCSD.

**Update: The General Assembly passed SB1 on Friday, September 10th, 2021. Part of this bill requires school districts to have a COVID-19 operations plan in place including masking options. Therefore, the original COVID-19 operations plan will be implemented beginning September 17th, 2021.**

**Update: The COVID-19 operations plan was updated by the Gallatin County Board of Education on September 17th, 2021 and will be effective September 20th, 2021 through October 11th, 2021 and revert to the original COVID-19 Operations Plan above. The modification is to the Mask Use section as follows:**

Due to the high number of cases and quarantines in our school district, all students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors for the next ten school days beginning Monday, September 20th, 2021.

**Update: The proposed Addendum will be voted on by the Gallatin County Board of Education at the regular scheduled meeting on September 21st, 2021. The Addendum is as follows:**

Masks will remain optional throughout GCSD, except when on buses, due to the three (3) feet social distancing, they will be required at all times. GCSD will only require students to wear masks while the number of cases in each school is in the “RED”, when building levels reach a threshold of .02 of the total number of all staff and students in that building.

This has to be positive cases. (Example: if we have 300 students and staff in a building, 300 X .02 = 6 positive.)   Any student that is quarantined can do the Test to Stay option, however, will be required to wear a mask while in the seven (7) day testing window.  The GC District Nurse will provide live daily numbers for our schools. These numbers will be on a 7 day rolling average, the same as the health department.

All staff members will be required to do the daily testing if they are in contact with someone who is positive. They will be required to report to work as long as their test comes back negative.

All staff will be required to report if teaching through Temporary Remote Instruction (TRL) and that they would teach remotely, just as if the students were in class. For those students that parents may say they don’t have Internet, the information will be provided in the form of paper packets, so the students will have the same information.

Each building number will vary depending on the number of students and staff in that building, but all personnel and students that are in a building will be counted. If at any time, any numbers are misrepresented, GCSD will go back to the original COVID-19 Operations Plan.

Additionally, all travel in and out of the GCSD while we are in the “RED” for our schools will be stopped. This would add another layer of safety for our students and staff, plus those in other districts.