

Gore Public Schools  
**Safe Return Plan**  
**Revised: 9/2023**

**Gore Schools has developed this safe return plan beginning July 1, 2021 to ensure our students, staff, patrons and guests are safeguarded against the contraction or spreading of the Corona Virus. The components of this plan include the following categories and shall be revised every six months based current conditions:**

- **School Operations**-Integrating public health strategies for the prevention of COVID-19 into schools.
- **Academics & Growth**-Ensuring continuity of learning; preparing for distance-learning options.
- **Whole Child & Family Supports**-Supporting the whole child, including social and emotional wellness.
- **School Personnel**-Supports for school personnel as they navigate new and emerging challenges

These categories will detail GPS's protocols in each area. These are intended protocols' and may be revised as conditions change. Please check back for current conditions updates and revisions.

The following are included in this plan. Please see each section for a detailed description and protocols.

**1. Universal and correct wearing of masks;**

**Masks shall be worn only when mandated by local, county, state or federal mandates. Currently, Oklahoma has legislation to prohibit the mandator wearing of masks by a school board unless a public meeting is held and justification is provided for such use. Masks are always optional on GPS campuses and transportation.**

**Masks, if mandated, must be worn to completely cover the mouth and nose of the wearer. Allowable removal shall be provided for meals and fluid intake.**

**2. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/pods);**

Commons areas, transportation, classrooms, and other confined spaces shall use a two fold approach; seat spacing and capacity of enclosed spaces. First, social distancing shall be utilized by spacing out desks in classrooms and seating in eating areas. Additional transportation may be used to decrease the number of persons in a vehicle.

3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Standard hand washing shall be encouraged and provided for. Sanitization stations shall be placed at all building entrances and in high traffic areas. Proper mouth covering will be taught to students and staff when expulsion of respiratory fluids may be released such as coughing or sneezing.

4. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.**

All hard surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized daily and after heavy use such as bus seating, cafeteria tables, restrooms, water fountains, doorknobs, and classroom desks. Deep cleaning will be done weekly. The use of chemicals shall adhere to OSHA practices for safe and effective use. Fogging may be done for confined spaces but will be limited to spaces that occupancy will not occur for 12 hours. Service to ventilation units will be done monthly to ensure clean filters and adequate air volume flow. Additional or upgraded units may be installed for high use areas.

5. **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine** in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.

The state and county have established contact tracing protocols and reporting requirements for GPS. Parents are notified any time exposure has been confirmed with a positive case. The use of social media, school web site and paper notices to students shall be utilized for information decimation. Updated hallway and classroom cameras are being installed to facilitate accurate visual tracing of potential exposed individuals. Surveillance footage is not open to the public.

**CDC Guidelines for Contact Tracing:**

**If you were around someone diagnosed with COVID-19**

If you were around someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, someone from the health department may call you.

Stay home and away from others:

- Stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19, such as older adults and people with other medical conditions, if possible.
- If you have been around someone with COVID-19, stay home and away from others for 14 days (self-quarantine) after your last contact with that person and monitor your health.
- If you have a fever, cough or other symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and away from others (except to get medical care or testing, if recommended).
- If you need support or assistance while in self-quarantine, your health department or community organizations may be able to provide assistance.
- The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home for 14 days if you think you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19. Check your local health department's website for information about options in your area to possibly shorten this quarantine period.

For COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting from 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person has any symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. A person is still considered a close contact even if they were wearing a mask while they were around someone with COVID-19.

### **Monitor your health:**

- Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19. Remember, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to COVID-19.

Answer the phone call from the health department. If someone from the health department calls you, answer the call to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community.

- Discussions with health department staff are confidential. This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like your health care provider.
- Your name will not be shared with those you came in contact with. The health department will only notify people you were in close contact with (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) that they might have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Tell the health department staff if you develop symptoms of COVID-19. If your symptoms worsen or become severe, you should seek emergency medical care.

### **If you are diagnosed with COVID-19**

**If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, someone from the health department may call you to**

- **Check on your health,**
- **Discuss who you have been around, and**
- **Ask where you have spent time while you may have been able to spread COVID-19 to others.**
- **Discussions with health department staff are confidential. This means that your name and personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like your health care provider.**

**Your name will not be shared with those you came in contact with. The health department will only notify people you were in close contact with (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) that they might have been exposed to COVID-19.**

**Any information you share with health department staff is CONFIDENTIAL. This means that your name and personal and medical information will be kept private.**

**Stay home and away from others:**

**You will be asked to stay at home and self-isolate, if you are not doing so already.**

- **Stay home and away from others except to get medical care.**
- **Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.**
- **Stay in a separate room from other household members and use a separate bathroom, if possible.**

- Avoid contact with other household members and pets.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Wear a mask when around other people, if able.
- Learn more about what to do if you are sick.

Self-isolation helps slow the spread of COVID-19 and can help keep your family, friends, neighbors, and others healthy.

If you need support or assistance while in self-isolation, your health department or community organizations may be able to provide assistance.

**Monitor your health:** If your symptoms worsen or become severe, you should seek emergency medical care.

### **You can be around others after:**

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

**Tell your close contacts.**

- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, tell your close contact that they may have been exposed to COVID-19.
- An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person has any symptoms or tests positive.
- By letting your close contacts know they may have been exposed to COVID-19, you are helping to protect everyone.
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## **6. Diagnostic and screening testing;**

- Viral tests are used to look for current infection
- A viral test checks specimen from your nose or your mouth to find out if you are currently infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Viral tests can be performed in a laboratory, at a testing site, or [at home or anywhere else](#). Two types of viral tests are used: [nucleic acid amplification tests \(NAATs\)](#) and [antigen tests](#).

### **The following people should get tested for COVID-19:**

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19.
- People who are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine should be evaluated by their healthcare provider and tested for COVID-19 if indicated.
- People without symptoms of COVID-19 such as:
- People not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine who have had close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 (including a person who does not have symptoms within 10 days of their positive test result).

- People not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine who have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19, such as attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded indoor settings.
- People not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine who are prioritized for expanded community screening for COVID-19.
- People not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine who have been asked or referred to get testing by their school, workplace, healthcare provider, state, tribal, local, or territorial health department.

### **Who does not need to be tested?**

The following people who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 do not need to get tested if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms:

- Persons who are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine not living in a congregate setting.
- For residents in non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g. correctional and detention facilities, group homes) and employees of residential congregate settings and high-density workplaces (e.g. meat and poultry processing and manufacturing plants), refer to CDC’s recommendations for fully vaccinated people.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered, as long as they do not develop new symptoms, do not need to get tested.

Coronavirus Self-Checker is a tool to help you make decisions on when to seek testing and appropriate medical care. Find this tool at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/coronavirus-self-checker.html>

### **How to get a viral test**

- Visit your state, tribal, local, or territorial health department’s website to look for the latest local information on testing.
- Visit your healthcare or public health department clinic provider to get a self-collection kit or self-test.
- You and your healthcare provider might consider either self-collection kit or a self-test if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and can’t get tested by a healthcare provider.

### **Positive viral test**

- If you test positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, take the following steps to protect others regardless of your COVID-19 vaccination status: Isolate at home and isolate away from others for at least 5 days.

- If you do not have any symptoms, you should still isolate at home for at least 5 days.
- If you develop symptoms, continue to isolate for at least 5 days after symptoms began as long as symptoms have improved, and no fever is present for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications.
- Most people have mild COVID-19 illness and can recover at home without medical care.
- Contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible if you are more likely to get very sick because of being an older adult or having underlying medical conditions or if your symptoms get worse.
- Talk to your healthcare provider or local health department to find out how long to isolate if you:
  - Are severely ill with COVID-19 or have a weakened immune system
  - Had a positive test result followed by a negative result
  - Test positive for many weeks after the initial result

### **Negative viral test**

If you test negative for the virus that causes COVID-19, the virus was not detected.

- If you have symptoms of COVID-19:
  - You may have received a false negative test result and still might have COVID-19. You should isolate away from others.
  - Contact your healthcare provider about your symptoms, especially if they worsen, about follow-up testing, and how long to isolate.
- If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and, you were exposed to a person with COVID-19:
  - You are likely not infected, but you still may get sick.
  - Self-quarantine at home for 5 days after your exposure if symptomatic.

Persons who are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine do not need to self-quarantine at home

For residents of non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g. correctional and detention facilities, group homes) and employees of residential congregate settings and high-density workplaces (e.g. meat and poultry processing and manufacturing plants), refer to CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated people.

Contact your local health department regarding options to reduce the length of quarantine. If symptoms develop during home quarantine:

Contact your healthcare provider about follow-up testing

Isolate at home separated away from others

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and do not have a known exposure to a person with COVID-19:

You do not need to self-quarantine.

## **7. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities**

Gore Schools will post on our web site and social media site local vaccine clinics that become available locally. Please check back often. To find a current site to receive a vaccine, see the following:

**Find a COVID-19 Vaccine:** Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

There are several ways you can look for vaccination providers near you.

- **Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)** to find vaccination providers near you. In some states, information may be limited while more vaccination providers and pharmacies are being added. Learn more about [COVID-19 Vaccination Locations on Vaccines.gov](#).
- Text your **zip code** to **438829** or call **1-800-232-0233** to find vaccine locations near you.
- **Check your local pharmacy's website to see if vaccination appointments are available.** Find out which pharmacies are participating in the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#).
- **Contact your [state health department](#)** to find additional vaccination locations in the area.
- **Check your local news outlets.** They may have information on how to get a vaccination appointment.
- **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**

Gore School will accommodate all special needs persons regardless of condition for all COVID 19 related issues. We will provide additional support for on campus and at home learning, access to educational programs via on campus and virtual and provide related services and equipment to facilitate student identified needs.

- **Coordination with State and local health officials.**

Gore Schools will follow all local, county, state and federal health guidelines and protocols in the prevention and treatment of COVID 19. The Sequoyah County Health Department is the primary contact for all COVID related issues and mandates. GPS will follow all OSDE and Sequoyah County Health Department reporting mandates and quarantine guidelines.

- **Continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students as well as staff members' social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

GPS will ensure all students, staff and parents are accommodated by providing on campus, Blended, and Remote Learning options for the school year. All required equipment will be provided including online access devices such as a Chromebook, Wi-Fi for internet access, and online lessons that mirror the on-campus classes.

GPS provides training to staff and students on identification of self-wellness and needs annually. This includes recognition, reporting and help options including on site counseling and outreach programs. Any student that has been identified as in need shall be evaluated by a trained counselor and the needs addressed through school and outside services, including health and food needs.

## **SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

School operations is a broad category that encompasses every program, protocol and policy that shapes a school and its culture. As a result of the myriad operational adjustments necessitated by COVID-19, and in keeping with the most up-to-date information on spread of the virus, this section includes considerations for districts in the following categories: management and communication, public health protocols, environmental factors and mitigation strategies, calendars and schedules, the school day and school meals.

### **Management & Communication**

Having a structure in place to support decision-making, and communicating those decisions, is essential to districts successfully managing the changing COVID-19 situation.

- **Establish a district leadership team**

Convene a team of representatives from across the district to support planning and key decision-making. The group's role shall be crucial to:

- 1) understand the needs of the district as informed by the experience of the 2019-20 and 20-21 school years.
- 2) utilize data and evidence to make decisions.
- 3) ensure all in the district are using common language and metrics for success; and
- 4) ensure unified communication, support and messaging throughout the district.

Consider including the following members in a district leadership team:

- District superintendent
- School board members
- Local and state health officials
- Representatives of subject areas/team leads (e.g., special education, English learners early childhood, counseling, etc.)
- School nurse
- Safe school committees
- Family members of students
- Community representatives
- Determine policies to be reviewed or adopted
- Advise on school calendar options for the 2020-21 school year
- Determine instructional models and plans that support students and families
- Review district information technology (IT) and connectivity plans for student access to curriculum for continuous learning



This team can be consulted to:

- Develop communication protocols with staff and families
- Adopt health and safety protocols, including coordination in the event of closures or disruptions to Learning.

## **Communications Plan**

### **Family and community communication plan**

Regular and frequent communication with families and community is essential during distance learning and when outbreaks occur. With this in mind, provide families the opportunity to engage in meaningful two-way communication moving forward is essential.

The primary form of communication with stakeholders will be the district web site at [www.gorepublicschools.org](http://www.gorepublicschools.org), our Facebook page.

Gore Public Schools, our district call list for all students, parents and staff. Please make sure that your contact phone number and email address is current with the district office.

### **Screening**

GPS has screening at each main entrance. Masks are not required but optional for entry to a building. The Oklahoma School Safety Protocols shall be referenced for GPS' Safe Return Plan. Any person that has symptoms of the Corona Virus should refrain from entering any school facility and avoid others until they can be tested for the virus.

It is the duty of the parent or guardian, and the school, to exclude such person until the period of isolation or quarantine ordered for the case expires, or until permission has been given by local health officers. See 63 O.S. § 1-507.

Individuals exhibiting any of the symptoms of coronavirus that are not explained by known prior conditions (i.e., allergies, migraines) should be prohibited from coming to school or sent home if exhibiting symptoms at school.

### **Social Distancing and Gatherings**

Currently, GPS has no restrictions on gatherings for school events. We currently have protocols in place for social distancing per current CDC guidelines. These may change as conditions change. Efforts will be made to separate all visitors on campus from students and staff.

#### **Student Daily Schedules for Social Distancing:**

Mealtime, passing periods, transportation and commons areas will remain staggered to minimized student contact with peers. Classrooms will continue spacing of desks and work areas.

Interactive activities such as athletics and PE classes will continue with equipment sanitization, hand washing before and after participation, separate drink usage.

## **COVID Identification Protocol**

In the event a positive case has been identified and has been in contact with students or staff, the **current** CDC guidelines shall be followed.

GPS shall work with the Sequoyah County Health Department for contact tracing, as required. The point of contact for this will be the site principal.

## **Transportation**

Students will be spaced as vehicles permit. Additional vehicles may be required for transportation of large groups. Entry into a school vehicle requires hand sanitization. Screening of Covid symptoms shall be done before entry of a school vehicle.

## **School Closure**

If conditions warrant, GPS may close the physical facilities and move all courses to Distance Learning.

This decision will be the responsibility of the superintendent and the leadership team. Students and parents should be prepared to move to distance learning at any time.

In the event campuses close, office hour will be posted to all communication formats for students to pick up needed supplies for Distance Learning.

- **Online Access**: All students will be provided with an online access device such as a Chromebook. Hot Spots may be available for those who do not have access to home internet.

Full Covid Protocols per CDC will be in place for anyone entering a school site such as temperature checks, masks, and hand sanitization during closure. Teachers will post all lessons on Google Classroom or a pre-determined online platform as determined by site principal and teacher.

Buildings will be deep cleaned and sanitized during a closure.

The length of the closure will be coordinated with local and state health officials for a safe reopening but may extend beyond the current 10-day recommendation.

No building use will be granted to outside groups during this time. Scheduled events may continue or may be rescheduled. This will be determined on the existing conditions and recommendations by the local health department or regulating agency such as OSSAA.

Meals may be served on a grab and go basis if conditions exist to safely do so.

## **Scheduling beginning August 2021**

Parents may opt for any of the following instructional schedules. Additional regulations may be imposed for activity participation by the sanctioning agency. These include attendance, grades, on

campus class time, time of day on campus and other stipulations.

**Traditional** on campus learning-regular class meets daily (M-F) on campus

**Blended Learning**--combines both on-site and distance learning

**Distance Learning**-done remotely but as a continuation of learning that normally would take place on-site. Students that are enrolled on full time distance learning may use an online classroom curriculum such as E2020. This will require a student to complete the enrolled course entirely online. There is no switching from E2020 class to a GPS staff facilitated course. The E2020 course will be completed satisfactorily for a grade or the course will be recorded as an F at the end of the enrolled semester.

### **Attendance:**

Students must log on each day, in each class, for blended or GPS staff facilitated learning, or an absence will be recorded. Special arrangements may be made with the building principal for extreme illness. On campus attendance will be recorded per site handbook.

### **Mandatory Drills:**

During times of Covid, drill will be adjusted by classes to maintain social distancing guidelines.

## **Academics and Growth**

Post pandemic learning will be a focus on grade/subject level proficiency, remediation, emotional support and content knowledge. With the loss of learning opportunities, comes assessment, evaluation of delivery methodology, student obstacles to access and learning, and finally planning to meet the needs as identified by these processes. Nothing can replace one on one instruction with a teacher in a classroom learning environment. The identifiable deficiencies and obtainable objectives must be determined to not only play catch up but further the learning experience. To do this the following practices will be implemented by each site.

- Ensure planning for instruction have a deep understanding of the on-grade-level content and disciplinary practices associated with the **Oklahoma Academic Standards**.
- Identify the content knowledge and disciplinary skills from previous grade levels that serve as prerequisite skills and knowledge for on-grade-level learning.
- Identify the content knowledge and skills students might struggle with in their current grade that may have been abbreviated or unaddressed in the 2019-20 school year. In particular, focus on serving English learners, students with disabilities and other special populations. Leverage OSDE resources to **support Diverse Learners**.
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- Use the resources provided in the **Oklahoma Curriculum Frameworks** to fully understand the intent of grade-level standards and how content knowledge connects and progresses across grade levels.
- Prepare scaffolded instructional supports for students who may need support with prerequisite knowledge and disciplinary skills to be successful in their current grade level.

- Develop or adapt a year-long scope and sequence that includes connections between content knowledge and disciplinary practices from previous grades and the current grade.
- Allow flexibility in scope and sequence to reflect where teachers may need to provide additional supports for students.
- Curriculum and instruction used will support students with social-emotional well-being and build in structures that promote a safe and equitable learning environment for all students.

**Academic and Emotional Counseling will be made available to all students, parents and staff. See the “Counselor’s Corner” on our district web site for contact information, outreach, and scheduling.**

**Professional Development will be provided with ongoing support for staff and parents on the use of technology, social emotional wellbeing, planning, and online lesson delivery/submission.**

### **Whole Child and Family Support**

Emotional well being is critical to a student’s ability to learn. The pandemic has caused the loss of peer contact, teacher-student interaction, and consistent daily routine for students. These changes have placed undue burden on student’s wellbeing. To address these issues, GPS has established ongoing reporting protocols for staff, peers, and parents to report a student who may be suffering. On campus counseling, outside counseling services and other help agencies are available.

The first step is identifying students who are in need. Training for staff and students will be provided annually on how to identify and report students who may be struggling with mental health issues. This training shall include how to self asses one’s own state and how to cope with stress related to the pandemic.

### **School Personnel**

With the pandemic, changes to learning will fluctuate. When a staff member has been affected, students may see changes to the curriculum due to a substitute teacher for a short time. This unfortunately is unavoidable. Illness cannot be predicted, and no one can replace a teacher with the same effectiveness. Therefor schedules and content may temporarily be adjusted until the teacher can return to duty. No student will be penalized for a disruption caused by a staff issue due to the Covid Virus.

CDC, local and state guidelines will be followed when a staff member is in contact with a positive case.

### **Leave Provisions:**

Leave provisions for staff will follow current school policy and be amended by state or federal agency provisions. There are currently no specific provisions for COVID related issues or exposure for staff.

Additional Federal Resources have been allotted to school to address COVID Related issues. The goal is to return to a normal educational setting, safely.

GPS will consult with all stakeholders on issues via public meetings, surveys, emails, and social media platforms for guidance and input. Please check out website and Facebook postings for the most current information.

During the period of availability of ARP ESSER funds (September 30, 2024, includes the Tidings Amendment), an LEA shall periodically, but no less frequently than every six months, review and, as appropriate, revise this plan. If the LEA revises its plan, the revised plan must address each of the aspects of safety currently recommended by the CDC or, if updated by the CDC, each of the updated recommendations.

Ty McCrary, Gore Supt.

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