

GMRSD 2021-2022 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As of August 15, 2021

As GMRSD prepares for a safe return to school on September 7, we wanted to provide a rundown of District protocols as they pertain to Covid-19. Below is a list of key items that will be in place as of the first day of school. As always, this list is subject to change based on state and local health guidance.

SCHEDULE

- ❖ Schools will open on a traditional, full-day schedule for all students. There is no virtual option being offered. However, should a student or staff member need to quarantine due to a positive Covid-19 diagnosis or related exposure, accommodations may be made to provide a virtual learning environment for a specified period.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- ❖ Masks are mandatory for all staff, students, and visitors to school facilities.
- ❖ Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to wear masks on school grounds.
- ❖ Masks are required on school buses.
- ❖ Temperature checks will no longer be performed prior to entry into school facilities.
- ❖ No guests or meetings during the school day. All meetings will remain virtual.
- ❖ Water fountains will remain closed. Bottle fillers are available in all schools.
- ❖ Field trips may be scheduled, though changes to health conditions may cause postponement or cancellation on short notice.

DISTANCING AND SANITIZING

- ❖ Students will maintain three feet of distance in classrooms and lunch rooms.
- ❖ Minimal sharing of supplies will be required.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer will be available for all students.
- ❖ Hand washing will be encouraged throughout the day.
- ❖ Classrooms and restrooms will be sanitized daily.
- ❖ Lunch tables will be cleaned thoroughly in between each lunch period.
- ❖ If in-person testing and/or related services are needed, they will take place in locations conducive to social distancing, such as large classrooms, the auditorium, gymnasium, or cafeteria.

ENTRY, EXIT, & COMMON AREAS

- ❖ One set of main entry doors will be designated for entry; one for exit.
- ❖ Footprint decals will be placed on hallway floors indicating the direction of traffic flow.

SCREENING, EXCLUSION, AND RESPONSE TO SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS AND STAFF

- ❖ Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

GMRSD 2021-2022 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As of August 15, 2021

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.
- ❖ For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.
- ❖ When illness occurs in the school setting:
 - Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider. Persons with COVID-19-compatible symptoms should undergo COVID-19 testing.
 - If community transmission is low, ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should follow the NJDOH School Exclusion List.
 - If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure OR if community transmission is moderate or high, they should be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria.**
- ❖ **COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Persons Who Have COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms or Who Test Positive for COVID-19:
 - Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
 - Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result.
 - An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is **not** acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.
- ❖ **COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts
 - CDC released guidance with options to shorten the quarantine time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period– and thus the preferred school exclusion period – regardless of the community transmission level, it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus.
 - To that end, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission levels as follows:
 - High (orange) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.
 - Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)

GMRSD 2021-2022 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As of August 15, 2021

- ❖ ****Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms:**
 - Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
 - Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
 - If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

REMOTE INSTRUCTION

- ❖ In the event individuals or groups of students must quarantine due to a positive Covid-19 diagnosis, exposure, or close contact, GMRSD will initiate virtual instruction within two (2) school days from the time the individual or group enters quarantine.
- ❖ Students will be able to view instruction via Google Meet and teachers will provide assignments, as appropriate.