

Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau School District Return to School Plan for Fall 2021

In order to maintain in-person, uninterrupted learning throughout the 2021-22 school year, we have developed a system of layered safety measures; however, if conditions warrant, there could be modifications to our plans. Specifically, spikes in transmission levels as well as health orders from national, state, and local health agencies may require adjustments. If changes to our safety requirements or instructional models occur, you will receive a communication with this information.

Instruction Models

- In-person learning will be provided for all students Monday through Friday.
- Virtual learning will be provided for students who require an off-site learning option for medical purposes as recommended by a medical professional. This instructional platform will be provided by a contracted vendor. Please contact your school principal if you require more information about this option.
- Distance learning will be available to students who experience short-term quarantines due to illness or close contact. The students will have opportunities to view instruction live or taped to keep up with coursework while away from school.

Health and Safety Measures

The following health and safety measures will be in place across the district to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and other illnesses:

- Access to hand-sanitizing and handwashing.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting practices.
- Access to face masks.
- Implementation of physical distancing of 3 feet to the extent possible.
- HVAC systems set to maximize ventilation.
- Maintaining cohorts or student groupings to the extent possible.

Face Masks

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the WI Department of Health Services (WI DHS) recommend that all students, teachers, and staff, regardless of vaccination status wear face masks at school. In line with this guidance, the G-E-T School District highly recommends face masks while indoors for all individuals. This recommendation could change if local, state or federal mandates begin requiring masks in school buildings or if we experience significant increases in positivity rates in our community, specific schools, or grade levels.

The CDC requires face coverings for all public transportation. This requirement currently applies to all occupants of school buses and district transportation for students; therefore, students must wear a face covering for all situations (to and from school, field trips, athletic buses, etc.) in which they are boarding a school bus or other district transportation.

At-Home Screening for Symptoms

Staff and students are expected to self-monitor for any COVID-like symptoms prior to coming to school. Staff and students should stay home and contact their health care provider if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms that cannot be explained by other causes (such as seasonal allergies):

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Exclusion for School Staff or Students with Symptoms

Staff and students exhibiting COVID-like symptoms at school will be assessed by school health personnel and may be sent home. School health personnel may recommend that staff or students seek testing before returning to school.

Communication about Vaccination

As a service to our families, the G-E-T School District will provide communication about vaccination as information becomes available. Vaccination is a personal choice. The communication is for information purposes and is not intended to promote or discourage vaccination. If you are interested in learning more about how to access a COVID vaccine, please visit the Trempealeau County Health Department information page at https://co.trempealeau.wi.us/departments/health_department/index.php.

Ongoing School Safety Plan Review

This plan has been created based on the current understanding about COVID and the health of our community at this point in time. As the health conditions of our community evolve, we will continue to review our plan on a frequent basis. As adjustments need to be made, we will keep our families informed.