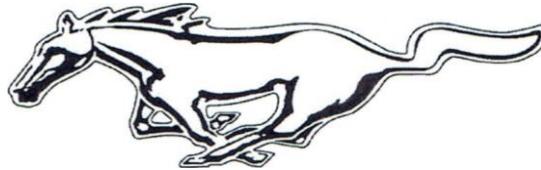


Green Forest R-II

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance.

Green Forest School District continuously reviews guidance and data from the CDC and local health departments. The district will review and revise this document as needed in accordance with the guidance and data provided by the CDC and local health agencies. The review of this document will take place no less than every six months and after consultation with stakeholders as required by statute.

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Commentary Regarding COVID-19 Guidelines & Protocols

- The safety and wellbeing of Green Forest students and staff is our top priority in all decisions related to conducting school and providing a quality education to all students we serve.
- The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups.
- The content in this document will be updated as additional guidance is provided by state, local, and federal authorities. Please refer to this document often to stay informed about the most current guidelines and protocols our district will be following. Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Green Forest School District at 573-729-3902 to discuss and address those concerns.

General Information for Students & Faculty/Staff

- Students will have the option and faculty will be required to wear protective masks.
- Staff members will be provided a mask and a face shield.
- Students may wear masks; they must be school appropriate. Masks are not recommended for young children. Masks are appropriate for middle school age students. Students who have a persistent cough due to allergies will be asked to wear a mask.
- Availability of district-provided masks is subject to the district's ability to procure masks (shortages of masks may limit availability).
- Masks must be in clean, sanitary condition.
 - Students may not share masks or provide masks to other students at school.
- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette (CDC Guidance)
 - Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
 - Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
 - Students will be guided to wash hands multiple times per day.
 - Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout buildings and will be located in each classroom.

- Drinking fountains will be removed from service, except for those with bottle filling capabilities.
- The district encourages parents to provide a refillable water bottle. These bottles should be sanitized twice a week. If parents cannot provide a water bottle, one will be provided by the school. Students should bring the bottle to school empty, so that textbooks and library books are not damaged in their backpacks. Remember that students may only have water in their bottles.
- Students who bring personal water bottles from home the bottles must be plastic or metal, and in clean, sanitary, condition.
- Students may not share water bottles.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff, and students. Social distancing is more achievable in hallways, outdoor areas, larger facilities.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidance.
- Students with diagnosed medical conditions that are related to COVID-19 susceptibility, or that request virtual instruction for other reasons, will be provided opportunities for distance learning and other accommodations as appropriate and practicable.
- Faculty/staff with diagnosed medical conditions that are related to COVID-19 susceptibility will be provided accommodations as appropriate and practicable.

Understanding & Recognizing COVID-19

- Faculty and staff will be trained to recognize symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19. Training will include, but not be limited to, online modules provided by the Missouri United School Insurance Council. The CDC lists the following as possible symptoms of COVID-19:
 - A fever of 100.4 degrees or higher/chills.
 - Cough.
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
 - Nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
 - Fatigue or Muscle pain or body aches.
 - Headache.
 - Sore throat/congestion or runny nose.
 - Newly emerged loss of taste or smell.

Staying Home When Appropriate

- Staff and families will be educated about when they/their child(ren) should stay home and when they can return to school.

- Employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home. Sick leave policies for staff and procedures for students will be enforced to encourage sick employees and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal. Attendance incentives have been removed and virtual learning and telework options will be utilized as feasible. Green Forest will be providing tutoring and summer school if needed to make sure each child completes grade level standards.
- Staff and students should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health. The school will work in collaboration with state and local agencies as necessary to identify close contacts and the need to quarantine.

General Health Information for Students & Faculty (Staff

- Parents and students, as well as staff members, are encouraged to self-screen for potential COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Anyone with symptoms of illness is expected to stay home until symptoms have subsided.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest COVID-19 concerns will be checked by the nurse. If evaluation by the nurse suggests potential for COVID-19 infection, the student will be placed in a separate room near the nurse's office, and masked (if appropriate for health) until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be sent home.
- A student excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19 concerns may return to school in accordance with guidelines provided by the health department. Please understand that guidelines may change over time. At the time of this publication, the guidelines are as follows:
- Students not tested for COVID-19 may return if the following conditions are met:
 - No fever for 24 hours, without use of medicine that reduces fever. Students will be required to report to the nurse for a temperature screen upon their return.
 - Other symptoms have improved (cough or shortness of breath).
 - At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Students with symptoms, but that tested negative for COVID-19, may return if the following conditions are met:
 - No fever for 24 hours, without use of medicine that reduces fever.
 - Other symptoms have improved (cough or shortness of breath).
 - They have received 2 negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with at least 24 hours between tests.
 - Students that have tested positive for COVID-19 may return if the following conditions are met:

- 10 days have passed without symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours without use of medication.
- They have received 2 negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with at least 24 hours between tests.
- Released and given written approval to return by a healthcare provider.
- Other scenarios regarding student health will be handled according to guidance and consultation from the Dent County Health Department.
- Screening and Diagnostic Testing
 - All screening and diagnostic testing of students will be referred to and conducted at a local medical facility at the expense of the student's family. Faculty and staff may be tested on site by the school nurse.

Transportation Information

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to drop students off at school instead of using bus service. Drop-off and pick-up systems will be organized to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Students who ride the bus will load the bus from back to front. Therefore, the first students who are picked up will be sitting in the back of the bus and students will continue to fill up the bus to the front.
- Students riding the bus, from the same household, will be required to sit together.
- Students will remain seated when they arrive at the school. Each seat will be dismissed by the driver.
- Buses will be sanitized after each route.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on school buses.
- Drivers will use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face shields, throughout routes.
- Students will be assigned seats and are required to wear masks while on the bus.
- Any student displaying symptoms of illness-cough, sneezing, etc. will be required to wear a mask.
- https://www.musicprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SCHOOLS_Transportation-GuidelinesFollowing-Pandemic.pdf

Arrival at School

- Student drop off time is 7:30. All drop offs will enter through the front doors.
- Students will either enter the cafeteria for breakfast or go to their classroom.
- Parents/visitors will have limited access to the building including the district office.
- Visitors in the building will be limited and must be approved prior to arrival.

During the School Day

- K-6 students will remain with their class all day. Cooperative activities with other classrooms will only occur during lunch and recess.
- 7-8 students will change classes only when necessary. Classrooms will be sanitized between each class exchange.
- Sharing of student supplies (art, other) will be minimized and/or eliminated.
- Equipment used by more than one student will be sanitized between uses.
- Appropriate footwear for physical education is required.
- No field trips, assemblies, or visiting presenters will be allowed at this time.

Cafeteria/ Mealtimes

- Breakfast/Lunch shifts will be staggered as possible to minimize the number of students gathered.
- All lunches will be plated or boxed. Self-serve options (salad bar, etc.) will not be available.
- Students will wash hands prior to eating and prior to engaging in other activities after eating.

Food Service

- Food will not be shared, and unopened food/drinks previously served will not be re-served.
- Use individual packets of condiments if possible. If not, district employees will serve condiments using gloves and masks.
- Gloves should be worn when handling used utensils and removing trash bags.
- Self-serve drink stations and communal pitchers/containers will not be used.
- Kitchen surfaces will be wiped down with disinfectant before food preparation begins.
- Hands should be washed after handling soiled dishes and before handling clean dishes.
- All kitchen staff must wear a mask and gloves during meal preparation and serving.
- All tables will be cleaned thoroughly between uses.
- All non-disposable food service items will be handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.

- If food is offered at any event, only pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal will be offered. Avoid sharing food and utensils and ensure the safety of children with food allergies.

Students Arriving Late, Dismissal or Early Pick-ups

- Students who arrive late to school should be signed in by their parent in the front foyer. The sign-in/sign-out sheet will be on a podium. You will then need to ring the bell and talk to office personnel through the speaker. Please do not leave right away, your child's temperature will need to be taken before they go to class.
- Students who need to be picked up early should be signed out in the foyer by their parent. Then ring the bell and let office personnel know which child you need.
- Parents who pick their child or children up in the evening need to make sure the office is aware your child is being picked up and need to wait in their cars outside around the front circle.

Other Information

- Attendance incentives have been removed for the regular school term. Students will be required to make-up the work missed either at home, after school, or during the summer.
- Parents of students participating in any extracurricular activity will be required to complete a liability waiver and follow the guidelines set within the document. Students must choose the in-class option to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Students who choose to participate in the Green Forest R-II curriculum on-line option must complete that option by quarter. For example, if a student chooses on-line for 1st quarter, they would not be eligible for in-class seating until 2nd quarter. Any student who chooses the on-line option may opt to the in-class option within five days of any quarter.
- The social, emotional, and mental health of our students is a top priority of the Green Forest School District. An instructional aide is available in all classrooms for small group and individual tutoring and mentoring. The counselor will be made available upon request. Activities throughout the year to address the social, emotional, and mental health of our students will be conducted in accordance with proper COVID 19 health and safety protocols.

Cleaning & Disinfection

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.
- Bus drivers should practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff (e.g., hand hygiene, cloth face coverings). To clean and disinfect school buses or other transport vehicles, see guidance for bus transit operators.

- A schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection has been established. A full-time custodian will be on staff from 8-4 daily. Part time custodial staff will disinfect the building each evening.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products including storing products securely away from children. Use products that meet EPA disinfection criteria

Shared Objects

- Sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect will not be permitted.
- Each child's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas as much as possible.
- If adequate supplies cannot be acquired to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment), use will be limited to supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time, cleaning and disinfecting supplies/equipment between use will be required.
- Students will be discouraged to share electronic devices, toys, books, and other games.
- Library books will be sanitized prior to being shelved.

Modified Layouts

- Space seating/desks at least 6 feet apart when feasible.
- Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or students will sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.
- Create distance between children on school buses when possible.
- Assigned seating in all settings to assist with contact tracing as needed.

Communal Spaces

- Communal use shared spaces such as the cafeteria, restrooms and playground will be staggered and disinfected between use.
- Smaller spaces will have a limited capacity such as the teacher workroom, restrooms, office,.....

Interruption to In-Person Learning

- In the event that the entire school is shut down due to COVID, the district will follow the approved AMI plan of instruction. A copy of the AMI plan can be received by contacting the superintendent's office.
- Food and work will be distributed according to the bus routes. Teachers will also communicate with students via phone, email, and Microsoft Teams.

Communication

- Signage will be displayed in all settings for:

- Proper hand washing and COVID Signs & Symptoms
- Individuals at Higher Risk
- Social Distance

Students with Disabilities

- Green Forest will provide appropriate accommodations for all children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies in place due to the prevention or response to COVID-19. Parents of students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the superintendent for more information.

Vaccinations

- Staff and eligible students are encouraged to obtain an approved COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is available at local health facilities. Information for where to receive the vaccine can be obtained by contacting the superintendent's office. The school does not provide the vaccine on site but can provide information about the vaccine.

Understandable Language

- Green Forest School District can provide this plan to stakeholders in the language of their oral tradition. To receive this plan in a language other than English, please contact the superintendent's office.

References

- CDC
 - <https://www.ede.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>
- MSBA
 - <https://ams.embr.mob/Documents/DocumentAttachment.aspx?C=ZfON&DID=GiGDM>
- MUSIC
 - <https://www.musicprogram.org/covid-19-complimentary-course-from-safeschools/>
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
 - <https://www.health.mo.gov/seniors/seniorservices>