

EXCELLENCE — the expectation for every learner, every day!

East Grand Forks Public School

Home of the Green Wave

(Approved on 8.23.21)

(Revised on 9.14.21 & 12.8.21)



Recently, the federal government released the ARP Act, [Public Law 117-2](#), section 2001 to provide emergency funding to state and local education agencies to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of these funds is to help schools safely return to in-person instruction, maximize in-person instructional time, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of the pandemic on students and staff.

As a requirement for this funding, the district must develop a “Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan.” This draft of the plan is intended to begin the discussion about how the school district can safely continue with in-person learning during the 2021-2022 school year.

East Grand Forks Public Schools Plan follows the guidance developed by the state of Minnesota, which aligns with guidance and information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for COVID-19, Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) statutes, rules and standards, and Minnesota’s relevant and current executive orders.

The school district will finalize this plan after receiving public comment and providing opportunities for community engagement. Please note all comments, by law, must be published on our school website along with this proposed plan. [PUBLIC COMMENT AND INPUT OF SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING](#)

Please note: This plan is a fluid document and subject to change, due to state and federal requirements and the ever changing circumstances related to COVID-19.

2021-2022 EGF ISD 595 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan

Communication

Communication to families goes out via our electronic messaging system using a combination of the District Website, Social Media, School App, Text Message and Voice call. It is critical that the school has an active working phone number at all times for every student. Parents/Guardians, please provide your school with a working phone number for emergency contacting.

Coordination with State / Local Public Health

East Grand Forks Public School Officials will continue to coordinate and implement plans with State and local public health officials.

2021-2022 Learning Options for Students in K-12

Students at East Grand Forks Public Schools will have the following learning options available to them:

- In-Person Learning for five days a week
- The District will need to prepare to pivot to temporary hybrid and distance learning models

Preschool

Preschool students will be learning in-person with several enrollment options available. For questions regarding programming, please contact DyAnn Stordahl Program at dstordahl@egf.k12.mn.us. To register for preschool or other early childhood programs, email dstordahl@egf.k12.mn.us

K-12 School Information

Grade Configurations

- New Heights Elementary School will serve grades K-2
- South Point Elementary School will serve grades 3-5
- Central Middle School will serve grades 6-8
- Senior High School will serve grades 9-12

Classroom Placements

Parents of elementary students will be notified of classroom placements in August.

Daily Starting and Ending Times

East Grand Forks schools will continue to follow the existing starting and ending times.

- Preschool Elementary start and End times: 8:00 - 2:45

- CMS start and end times: 8:30 - 3:17
- Senior High start and end times: 8:30 - 3:22

Student Support and Services

All student support programs and services will continue as usual next year for students attending school in-person and online. Students receiving special education, English Language, mental health, and other academic and/or social emotional support will continue to have access to these programs throughout the year.

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

To prioritize the health and safety of students, employees, and community members, the following mitigation strategies are currently planned for the 2021-22 school year:

- The district will follow all requirements of State law, Executive Order, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Minnesota State High School League.
- If mandated by the state of Minnesota, masks will be required. East Grand Forks Public Schools will review [CDC](#), [MDH](#), and [MDE](#) guidance regarding face covering requirements for K-12 Schools. The District will review and adjust the face covering requirements as guidance changes or local data requires.
 1. Face coverings will be **recommended**, but not required, for all students, staff and visitors to district facilities.
 2. Face coverings will be **recommended**, but not required, for all individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
 3. Face coverings **are required** on all public transportation, for all passengers and drivers, including school buses per [federal mandate](#). Exceptions may be made for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) who require specific accommodations.
 4. Universal and correct wearing of masks will be communicated, promoted and available.
- Students and staff are expected to stay home if sick. Families and staff members must continue to reference the daily screening symptoms below and the [MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree](#) at this time.
- East Grand Forks Public Schools will implement a policy consistent with MDH guidance for identifying and communicating with students, families and employees who may have been

exposed to COVID-19 at East Grand Forks ISD 595. East Grand Forks ISD 595 will follow best practices in relation to contact tracing and quarantine as defined by MDH.

1. Students and employees **who have been FULLY vaccinated** do not need to stay home even if they have had recent close contact with a confirmed case so long as it has been two weeks since the last dose of the vaccine, the person remains asymptomatic, and does not test positive for COVID-19.
2. Individuals **who are NOT fully vaccinated** and returning to in-person school, sports, or extracurricular activities (and their families) should get tested regularly and will be required to quarantine based on the EGF ISD 595 Contact Tracing and Quarantine Procedures
3. Individuals **who are NOT fully vaccinated**, who are properly masked, may not have to quarantine if they have a recent close contact with a confirmed case.
4. If a person has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days and been a close contact with someone with COVID-19, you do not need to quarantine if **ALL** of the following are true:
 - Your illness was confirmed with a positive lab test in the past 90 days.
 - You have fully recovered.
 - You do not currently have any symptoms of COVID-19.

NOTE - All symptomatic individuals need to stay home from school regardless of vaccination status.

COVID-19 Tests and Vaccinations

COVID-19 tests and vaccinations will be encouraged and information will be provided to families on opportunities.

Vaccination information provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Minnesota Department of Health and local public health officials will be communicated to families. In addition, the district will continue to serve as a possible vaccination site for those interested in receiving a vaccination.

All people ages 12 years and older should get vaccinated for COVID-19 before returning to in-person school, sports, or other activities to protect themselves and people around them who cannot get vaccinated.

1. Students, parents and guardians will be asked to provide proof of vaccination for a student record;
2. Employees may be asked if they have received the vaccine by health services or district office staff;
3. All information regarding vaccinations will be kept confidential as a part of the private student or employee record, to be viewed by only health services and human resources.

Students and employees who have been fully vaccinated do not need to stay home even if they have had recent close contact with a confirmed case so long as they remain asymptomatic and do not test positive.

Social Distancing

Social distancing of at least three to six feet will be encouraged between employees, students and visitors in the workplace through administrative controls noted below.

Classrooms

1. Classroom seating will be configured with maximum allowable space between students.
2. Instructional plans will be created to limit the sharing of materials, limit shared equipment and maintain appropriate social distancing as possible.

Barriers & PPE

Plexiglass barriers and personal protective equipment will be used as needed.

Prevention Strategies

Hand-washing as well as other prevention strategies will continue to be prioritized.

District Cleaning and Sanitizing Protocols

The district will continue to follow all cleaning and sanitizing protocols and air exchange protocols required by the state.

Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountain access may be limited based on guidelines from MDH. Bottle-filling stations will be accessible and students will be encouraged to bring refillable bottles to school.

Hallways/Common Spaces

Where appropriate, visual cues to encourage traffic flow and spacing will be implemented throughout the building.

Outdoor Recess

1. Outside recess and physical education will be encouraged.
2. Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using playground equipment.

Drop-off, pick-up and delivery practice

The District has implemented procedures related to the drop-off and pick-up of students

before, during and after the school day.

Appropriate Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies have been provided. To learn more, parents/guardians should contact his/her child's case manager.

Technology Services

Students in grades K-5 will have school-issued devices at school. 6th - 11th grade students have school-issued Chromebooks for school and home.

Daily Wellness Checks/Monitoring for Sickness - Employees, Students, and Visitors

Employees, visitors, and students should stay home if any of the following symptoms are present.

- Symptoms of COVID-19 include the following (A checklist is enclosed from the Minnesota Department of Health):
 - Fever of 100.4 or greater, or chills
 - A new cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Abnormal fatigue
 - A new muscle or body ache
 - A new headache
 - A new loss of taste or smell
 - A new sore throat
 - Diarrhea
- Parents are responsible for reporting to the school office of their child's attendance any symptoms their students may have, as soon as they occur.
- Staff will monitor students throughout the school day, and will be reminded to report any symptoms to an adult in the school building.
- Any staff member or student experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and must follow all guidelines provided by the MDH.

Visitors

All visitors should report to the main office upon entrance to the building and receive a visitor pass.

1. A self-assessment is required to be used for each visitor entering school grounds.
2. Visitors who are experiencing symptoms as described in the self-assessment are not to enter a building and should contact their medical professional for further direction.

3. Visitors may continue to be limited based on regional, state and federal recommendations.
4. Masking may be required for visitors during regular school hours.

Transportation

Bus transportation will be offered as usual for students during the 2021-22 school year. The district will continue working closely with our transportation providers to follow the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC, MDH, and local health officials. Details regarding bus routes will be sent to families from Debbie Delisle in August. For questions relating to busing and transportation, refer to the [Transportation Google Site](#) on the website or please contact Debbie Delisle at 218-773-0476 or via email at ddelisle@egf.k12.mn.us.

Food Services

Families are encouraged to continue to apply for free and reduced meals as this impacts future funding. This can be done at the [Food Service Directors Google Site](#). Meals will be served in the cafeteria and proper cleaning and sanitizing protocols will take place.

Communications and Training Practices and Protocol

The COVID-19 Plan, as well as changes to the plan, have been and remain posted at www.egf.k12.mn.us for all stakeholders to review and provide feedback. Training related to COVID-19 is continuous and delivered by individual departments based on guidance from the CDC, MDH, FDA and MDE. Additional communication and training will be ongoing by utilizing the District email system to all employees and students.

PLEASE GO TO NEXT PAGE

East Grand Forks ISD 595 COVID-19 Mitigation Strategy Levels (updated on 12.8.21)

The stages listed below may be adjusted by the EGF Supt of Schools after consulting with the School Board Chairperson and EGF ISD 595 COVID-19 Incident Command team. This EGF ISD 595 Incident Command team is comprised of three school board members, a teacher representative, school nurse, health aide, two district level administrators, and a representative from Polk County Public Health. Data points to consider will include county data (case rate, community transmission, and location of community cases) and district data (positive staff and student numbers, counts by location, staff outages, etc). Levels are identified by building. Please note - The EGF ISD 595 COVID-19 Mitigation Strategy Levels document is subject to change. The current Mitigation Strategy Level is highlighted in red and the District will be transitioning to Level 3 on Thursday, September 16, 2021.

Mitigation Strategy	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Guidance	Low Community Spread	High Community Spread	Community and some School Spread (i.e. some student to student/staff transmission)	Community and some School Spread (i.e. moderate student to student/staff transmission)	Community and high School Spread (i.e. high student to student/staff transmission)
Learning Model	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	Distance Learning
Face Coverings (regardless of vaccination status)	PK Recommended Grades K-6 Recommended Grades 7-12 Recommended Buses Required	PK Recommended Grades K-6 Recommended Grades 7-12 Recommended Buses Required	PK Recommended Grades K-6 Required Grades 7-12 Recommended Buses Required	PK Recommended Grades K-6 Required Grades 7-12 Required Buses Required	PK Recommended Grades K-6 Required Grades 7-12 Required Buses Required
Quarantine, Isolation, and Close Contact Information	<u>Please refer to the 2021-2022 School Year Quarantine/Contact Tracing Information</u>				
Visitors (except contracted workers)	Grades PK-12 Normal check in procedures at building office Activities Masking and social distancing recommended	Grades PK-12 Normal check in procedures at building office Activities Masking and social distancing recommended	Grades PK-12 Check in and symptom screening procedures at building office Activities Social distancing recommended Masking required for indoor fans and players who are not in the game	Grades PK-12 Check in and symptom screening procedures at building office Activities Social distancing recommended Masking required for indoor fans and players who are not in the game	Grades PK-12 Check in and symptom screening procedures at building office Activities Capacity limits Social distancing required Masking required for all activities

Social Distancing	No restrictions	Recommended spacing by 3ft when possible. Teachers keep current seating charts.	Recommended spacing by 3ft when possible. Teachers keep current seating charts.	Recommended spacing by 3ft when possible. Teachers keep current seating charts.	Recommended spacing by 3ft when possible. Teachers keep current seating charts.
Lunches	No restrictions	Recommend spacing students by 3 ft when possible	PK-Grade 5: Recommend spacing of 3ft Lunches CMS: Assigned seating Senior HS: Table sign-in.	PK-Grade 5: Recommend spacing of 3ft Lunches CMS: Assigned seating Senior HS: Table sign-in.	Lunch Pick-up and Delivery Options
Cleaning and Disinfecting	All district cleaning and disinfecting protocols followed	All district cleaning and disinfecting protocols followed	All district cleaning and disinfecting protocols followed	All district cleaning and disinfecting protocols followed	All district cleaning and disinfecting protocols followed
Internal Events	Events allowed in all buildings	Events allowed in all buildings with recommendation for 3ft social distancing	Events allowed in all buildings with recommendation for 3ft social distancing	Limited Events or Rentals	Limited Events or Rentals
Activities/ Athletics	All activities and athletics will follow the MSHSL rules. Virtual or in person	All activities and athletics will follow the MSHSL rules. Virtual or in person	All activities and athletics will follow the MSHSL rules. Virtual or in person	All activities and athletics will follow the MSHSL rules. Virtual or in person	Consultation between MSHSL, Athletics committee, and Superintendent
COVID Testing (onsite)	No onsite testing available	No onsite testing available	No onsite testing available	No onsite testing available	No onsite testing available
COVID Testing (online)	Families and staff members are strongly encouraged to order free COVID-19 tests to have on hand just in case of a potential exposure. Please go to https://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/ to order a free testing kit.				
Vaccines	Strongly encouraged for all students and staff who are able	Strongly encouraged for all students and staff who are able	Strongly encouraged for all students and staff who are able	Strongly encouraged for all students and staff who are able	Strongly encouraged for all students and staff who are able