

2021-2022

Return to In-Person Learning Plan

Forward

As a component of the American Rescue Plan, Galatia CUSD #1 developed a plan to return to full in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. The following plan is designed to give employees, students, parents, and other stakeholders a basic blueprint moving forward of the efforts being made by the school to return all students to in-person learning. We understand there will be limited students who will have a medical necessity, documented by a medical practitioner, licensed in the State of Illinois, who will not be able to return to school. This plan uses past practices, current state guidance, and new knowledge of what we know about the COVID-19 virus. We should all recognize guidance has, and will change for schools, and we will have to adopt changes as they come our way. We will seek to give as much notice of changes as possible, but many times, we are on the latter end of knowing changes as well.

2021-2022 return to in-person learning plan

The following plan is organized under a question and answer format. This is being done to help readers find information quickly and the overall organization of the document. If after reading this, you still have questions please email the questions to returntoschool@galatiak12.org and we will find an answer for you.

Will every student be required to return to in-person learning?

Unless a doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant licensed to practice medicine in the State of Illinois completes needed documents stating a student should not return to school for medical reasons, students are expected to return to school for the 2021-2022 school year in-person. The needed documents can be found on the district's website. **A note from the doctor will not be accepted, forms from the district must be filled out.**

If a doctor completes the paperwork what will remote learning look like during the school year?

One of the lessons we learned during the 2020-2021 school year is how difficult having an online and in-person classroom is for staff. Knowing the challenges, this year we have partnered with Edmentum, an online curriculum, for students to who require remote learning.

If my student is quarantined through the health department, what will their education look like?

Students who are quarantined through the health department will be moved to remote learning. Remote learning across the K-12 spectrum looked different last year and will this year. This year will look similar to when we have had traditional illnesses like the flu or strep throat. Individual teachers may choose to record the classroom or may choose to send a packet home and email with parents or students. It is the district's goal to help students and families through this time. PLEASE STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH TEACHERS during times your child is on quarantine.

What about wearing masks?

Due to Executive Order 2021-18, masks will be required by all individuals entering a public school building.

Where can I get the vaccine?

Multiple retailers and the Egyptian Health Department can administer vaccines.

What modifications are being made to the learning environment to meet social distancing needs?

This is another area where additional guidance is needed for schools. The gold standard during the 2020-2021 school year was 6 feet. Later in the year, there was some indication by the CDC that 3 feet was appropriate. We are blessed in Galatia that for the most part we have small class

sizes and can separate students within a classroom. This is not always possible, but every effort will be made to keep as much distance between students as possible.

Will drop-off and pick-up procedures be similar to last year?

Yes. No students will enter the building until 7:45. Students will enter and have their temperature taken, grab a breakfast and go to their classrooms. At the end of the day, we will stagger release times and doors we exit in order to provide as much social distancing as possible.

What about hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette?

As we did last year, we will provide times for frequent handwashing and hand sanitizer. We will also give basic instructions in hand washing and respiratory etiquette at the beginning of the school year and reminders throughout the year.

What measures will the school take to properly clean and improve ventilation in the district buildings?

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district made a number of changes to cleaning procedures including wiping down all hard surfaces more frequently, using a spray solution after school to improve air quality and kill viruses that were missed during the day or regular cleaning. Teachers have bottles of cleaning solution so they can wipe down desks during the day, especially if more than one student is going to utilize a particular seat. We paid special attention to this practice at the Junior High and Senior High level where students move from class to class. Additionally, we did enhance cleaning on the busses, cleaning after both morning and afternoon routes. Over the next two years the district will use federal money to update the HVAC system in every classroom and the grade school gym. Not only will this make a more comfortable, energy-efficient learning environment, it will also help circulate more air.

Will there still be contact tracing and students having to stay home because of exposure to COVID 19?

The short answer is yes. There are two important follow-up points to be made about this question. One, the school does not quarantine students, the local health department does. We assist them in making contacts and letting parents know, but we do not write orders for students to quarantine. Secondly, we had fewer quarantines in the second half of the 2020-2021 school year. This can be attributed to many factors including a major push to get people vaccinated. If you need information on vaccination or where you can get one, please feel free to reach out to the school nurse or the Egyptian Health Department. Those students and staff who are not vaccinated will have to quarantine if exposed to COVID 19. If a vaccinated student or staff is in contact with COVID 19 they will only need to quarantine if they show symptoms.

Summative lists of mitigation for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year

Wellness screenings for students and staff entering the building.

Breakfast in classroom (lunch in classroom for K-6 and additional lunch periods at the Jr. High and High School level).

Increased cleaning of buildings and busses.

Frequent wiping down of desks. (especially if more than one student shares a desk).

Contact tracing as needed.

Following guidelines from IDPH on symptoms related to COVID and school exclusion.

Ionized disinfecting spray after staff and students are gone.

Staggered dismissal times and bus loading.

Immediately quarantine staff or students if COVID is suspected.

Continue to work with local and state healthcare providers.

Continue multiple cleanings of school busses

Does my child have to be vaccinated against COVID 19 to come to school?

The short answer is no. At this point neither the Illinois State Board of Education, nor The Illinois Department of Public Health require COVID vaccinations for students. At this point, vaccinations have not been approved for use by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for use on children younger than 13.

Will the school do diagnostic screening for COVID 19?

No. The district will continue to utilize the many community, and health care facilities testing for COVID 19. If you suspect you were exposed to COVID 19 and need to be tested, we will be happy to share the locations we know are doing testing services.

Will the district continue to work under the health guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities?

Besides our school nurse, we are not medical practitioners and must rely on federal, state, and local health authorities to guide us in the medical arena. We must ensure we are using best practices as prescribed by governing authorities to protect staff, students, and the community at large.

My student seems to be behind after being on remote learning last year, how do I get help to catch them up?

This is not a short answer or an easy solution. The district has invested money into programs that can be used supplementary at home after school as well as some diagnostic tools for parents and students to continually monitor progress. Teachers are the best resources you have for your

student. Please reach out to your child's teacher and let them know your concerns. We will help to the greatest extent possible.

How will the social and emotional needs be met for students and staff?

The district employs a full-time counselor that students of all ages can utilize. If you feel your student needs to talk to the counselor, please contact Kelsi Love (at the high school) or your child's teacher. We also work very closely with the Egyptian Health Department. The health department offers an array of services for families, students, and staff who may be in need of services.

What do extracurricular activities look like this year?

At present time, we are in phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. Phase 5 does not have capacity limits in gyms or other indoor spaces. As long as we stay in Phase 5, we do not plan to have capacity limits. If the state were to move back to phase 4, we would then have to move to limit capacities. Student athletes will not have to wear a mask unless guidance changes.

Do spectators have to wear a mask?

Consistent with governing body's guidance, vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask at extracurricular events. Individuals not vaccinated should wear a mask, especially while in large crowds in indoor spaces.