

Gallatin County

2021-22

BACK TO SCHOOL SUMMARY



A Letter From Superintendent Judy Kaegi

In looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year, I present to you this Back to School plan for Gallatin County Community Unit School District #7, which prioritizes the health and safety of our students and employees.

The Gallatin County CUSD 7 Back to School Plan is based on public health information available at this time. The plan will most likely be adjusted as new guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and other public health officials is received or as necessary to best support the health and safety of our students and employees. All updates will be posted to our website at gallatincusd7.com and shared with our families and employees.

Please keep in mind, it is possible that the governor will direct all Illinois schools to move to remote learning for all students for a period of time should Illinois move due to a resurgence of the virus. It is also possible that new restrictions could be instituted on the number of students per space; if capacity limits would change it could require a combination of in person and remote learning attendance days for all students. As a district, we are preparing for the return of all students in person this fall, as always, we are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way.

All students Instruction

Governor Pritzker announced that Illinois schools can return to on-campus learning with enhanced safety protocols. In addition, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) is recommending students physically return to school. The Gallatin County CUSD 7 back to school plan outlines the protocols we are putting in place to resume instruction at school based on guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Egyptian Health Department, Board of Education and The Centers for Disease Control.

ILLINOIS STATE GUIDANCE

I ask that you take the time to review the Back to School plan for Gallatin County CUSD 7 Plan presented in this guide to help you make the choice that is best for your children. We greatly appreciate your understanding and collaboration. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your school principals with any questions you may have.

The guidance advised the following.

- The majority of students need full-time in-person access to their teachers and support network at school to stay engaged, to learn effectively, and to maintain social-emotional wellness.
- Districts must prepare an alternative option (medical consent form) for students with elevated health risks.
- Districts must plan for return to remote instruction pending a resurgence or second wave of the virus.

For in-person instruction, the following IDPH, CDC, and ISBE rules apply.

- The use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings, is required.
- Social distancing must be observed, as much as possible.
- Districts must increase cleaning and disinfection protocols.

INSTRUCTION

School Gallatin County Community Unit School District 7 will open August 13, 2021 for in-person instruction, while also taking practical steps to keep our students, employees, and community safe and adhering to all applicable public health orders. We ask all employees, students, and visitors to practice the following protocols.

Arrival

- All students, employees and visitors will be required to complete the Gallatin County CUSD 7 COVID-19 Self-Screener PRIOR to boarding a bus and/or arriving at Gallatin County CUSD 7 schools or offices (see the screener questions on the following page).
- Face masks will be mandatory for all students, employees and visitors.
- Schools will conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks, and have individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings.

Classrooms

- Classroom seating will be arranged with maximum allowable space between students and all desks facing the same direction.
- Employees will modify instructional plans to reduce student contact, sharing of materials or equipment and maintain appropriate social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Class sizes will depend on student enrollment numbers
- Throughout the day teachers may take students to an area where they can take a break.

GALLATIN DISTRICT SELF SCREENER

All Gallatin County CUSD 7 students and employees must complete the self- screening questions listed below each morning prior to reporting to school.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of reported symptoms, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

Have you experienced ANY of the currently known symptoms of COVID-19 below in the past 24 hours?

1. Fever (Temperature greater than 100.4 degrees F/38 degrees C): YES_ NO_
2. Cough: YES_ NO_
3. Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing: YES_ NO_
4. Chills: YES NO
5. Fatigue: YES_ NO_
6. Muscle and Body Aches: YES_ NO_
7. Headache: YES NO
8. Sore Throat: YES NO
9. New Loss of Taste or Smell: YES NO
10. Congestion or Runny Nose: YES_ NO
11. Nausea: YES NO
12. Vomiting: YES_ NO_
13. Diarrhea: YES NO
14. Outside of the work environment in the last 14-days; have you had *close contact with or cared for someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or that had all the currently known symptoms of COVID- 19 that are listed above?
 - ❖ Close contact is defined as being **within** approximately 3 to 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for greater than 15 minutes; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on).
 - ❖ Parents should complete the Gallatin County CUSD 7 COVID-19 Self-Screener before their children board the bus and keep them home if they have any symptoms (daily).

*******If the answer is "yes" to any question, do not come to school.**

Hallways

- Limits will be placed on the number of students allowed in a hallway at one time.
- Restroom procedures will be established to limit the number of students transitioning in the hallway and in restrooms at one time.
- The use of lockers will be established limiting the number of students transitioning to book lockers at one time.

Art, Music, PE and Junior-Sr. high electives

- Delivered in person, face masks will be required while indoors in all these classes - including indoor PE and while singing.
- Face masks may be removed if classes move outside and if students and staff are able to maintain 3 to 6 feet of social distance.
- Students may remove face masks during outdoor instrumental music classes while maintaining 3 to 6 feet of social distance.

Personal Items

- The borrowing or sharing of any items will be restricted.
- Students should bring reusable water bottles.
- Drinking fountains will be closed.
- The bottle filling station will remain open and cleaned throughout the day.

INSTRUCTION

Breakfast and Lunch

- Students will wash/sanitize hands before meals.
- Students will be allowed to remove masks when eating and drinking.

Outdoor Recess (Elementary)

- Face masks are **not** required outside if 3 to 6 feet of distance is maintained at all times.
- Limits will be placed on the number of students on equipment at one time.
- Playground equipment will be sanitized after use throughout the day.
- Students will wash their hands before and after using playground equipment. .

Visitors

- Limits will be placed on nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities with external groups.
- Essential visitors will be required to sign a Symptoms Screening Log, which will include a temperature check. This will also be used should contact tracing be necessary.
- Essential visitors to facilities will be required to wear masks and will remain in the main office or other designated area for the duration of the visit.

Cleaning

- Increased daily cleaning protocols will be instituted with an emphasis on repeated cleaning of high-touch/high-traffic areas.
- Disinfectant has been provided to **ALL** staff so that cleaning can occur throughout the day.
- Objects and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before and after use. Any area used by a sick person will be closed until proper cleaning and disinfection have been completed by a custodian.
- Following CDC and OSHA guidance, extensive deep cleaning of all Gallatin County CUSD 7 facilities is being completed this summer by our custodial staff.

Technology

- Gallatin County CUSD 7 is a 1:1 district with 1-12 grade students having a Chromebook. Device distribution will occur in August.
- People experiencing problems with Gallatin County CUSD 7 technology should contact Robert Holloway at vlearning@gallatincusd7.com.

SPECIAL SERVICES

- Gallatin County CUSD 7 employees working with students who require instruction or related services that involve hands-on work or other intervention in close proximity will wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to keep themselves and the students safe. This includes gloves, and masks.
- Students will also be required to wear face masks;
- IEP meetings may continue to be held in person or virtually based on the ability of the school to provide space that ensures appropriate social distancing requirements are met.

WHEN SOMEONE IS SICK

- Any individual who shows any signs or symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Students are encouraged to stay home when they are not feeling well.
- School nurses will ask about symptoms when absences are reported.
- Individuals should not return to school unless they are fever free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- Students, employees, and visitors with any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 remain home:
 - Cough,
 - Fatigue,
 - Fever or chills,
 - Headache,
 - Known close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19,
 - Measured temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater,
 - Nausea or vomiting,
 - New loss of taste or smell,
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or sore throat.
- Any student or employee who begins to exhibit a high fever associated with COVID-19 like symptoms must report to the school nurse.
- An Isolation room will be available staffed with a nurse for individuals demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms until they can be picked up from school.
- All students will be required to have a doctor's excuse after 10 days of remote learning.

CASES OF COVID

- Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Please report possible cases of COVID -19 to your school so that we can initiate contact tracing within the building.
- Individuals should not return to school for 10 days after symptoms first appeared. Individuals must also be fever free for 72 hours, without the use of fever -reducing medications.
- People who have had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Close contact is defined as "any individual who has been closer than 3 to 6 feet for more than 15 minutes."
- The state does not require complete school closure due to a positive COVID -19 test, however, entire classrooms and bus routes may be impacted. (See Back to School Plan; school closure)
- Students or employees returning from illness related to COVID-19 will be required to check in with the school nurse and school administrator.
- If an employee or student tests positive, Gallatin County CUSD 7 will work collaboratively with the Egyptian Health Department and follow the IDPH guidance for quarantine requirements and the potential closure of a class, wing or the district. (See Back to School Plan; school closure)
- Students and staff who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be restricted from school or extracurricular activities. CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals test three to five days after a close contact exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

CASES OF COVID

- If a classroom or multiple classrooms are required to quarantine due to a positive test , impacted students will transition into remote learning during the quarantine period. If a student is physically able to participate and with virtual day attendance check in those days will not be counted as absences.

