

August 17, 2021
2021 - 2022 Reopening of School

Dear Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Family:

At last night's Board of Education meeting, the Board voted on the following Covid mitigation strategies for the upcoming school year.

MASKS: The decision for whether students will wear masks will be left to parents this fall. Parents will be strongly encouraged to have their child/ren wear masks, especially those under the age of 12, for whom a vaccine is not yet available. We respect every parent's right to make that decision for their child/children and expect that all of us in the G-A Family will do the same. There is to be no bullying or disrespect of any kind toward a student or staff member who chooses to mask.

BUSING: Students are required to wear masks on school buses as it is considered public transportation. Additionally, we will continue to sanitize buses in between trips. Masks will also be on hand should students forget.

SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS: Parents will be asked to keep their child home who have symptoms such as: cough, difficulty breathing, fever or chills, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea, loss of taste or smell. Before returning to school, students need to be symptom free for 24 hours. If they have an extended illness, we will encourage you to get your child tested for Covid. This is very important in our abilities to ensure there is no spread of the virus in school. The less students need to quarantine, the more learning will occur for them. As a G-A Family, I know we can keep our students and staff as safe as possible.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE:

- Anyone who tests positive with Covid will be required to isolate for 10 days
- Anyone who is vaccinated and exposed is not required to quarantine. Or if they have had Covid in the last 90 days they will not be required to quarantine. The family will want to monitor for symptoms, however.

OTHER MEASURES: We will also continue with the following:

- Sanitizing desks at the end of every class period (grades 5-12)
- Hand sanitizer as students enter the classroom and frequent handwashing
- Reduced number of students in bathrooms at one time
- Not congregating indoors outside of classrooms will continue to be our goal. We will not require six feet in between all students, however.
- We will cohort students when possible
- We will work to socially distance three feet in classrooms and lunchrooms but will not keep any students from attending should we not reach that goal.
- Classroom windows and doors open to keep airflow.

The past seventeen months have been a difficult time for all of us. We proved we could keep staff and students safe last school year and I am confident we will continue. We will continue to navigate what is often a fluid situation and be transparent with our families should conditions change and there is a need to temporarily increase our protocols.

Our Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and support staff, thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to our young people. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Open Houses next Wednesday!

Sincerely,
Wendy Maynard-Somers