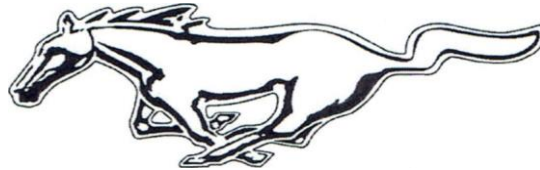


## Green Forest R-II

# 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.

Reviewed and Board Approved on 09/20/22

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## Commentary Regarding COVID-19 Guidelines & Protocols

- The safety and well-being 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 and staff will have the option to wear protective masks. Masks will be made available to students and staff. A mask can be acquired at multiple locations throughout the building.
- Availability of district-provided masks is subject to the district's ability to procure masks (shortages of masks may limit availability).
- Masks should be cleaned and sanitized properly in accordance with CDC guidelines. Masks may not be shared between students.

## Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette (CDC Guidance)

- Teachers will reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
- Hand sanitizer stations containing an alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be made available at multiple locations throughout the building and in each classroom.
- Students will be guided to wash and sanitize hands multiple times per day.
- 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. 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, labelled with the student's name and in clean, sanitary, condition.
- Students may not share water bottles.
- Each classroom teacher will be provided with paper cups to provide water for students who do not bring a water bottle to school on any given day.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff, and students. CDC guidelines currently recognize 3 feet as proper social distancing between individuals.
- 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 experiencing any illness, included but not limited to the symptoms listed above, 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 fully utilized when possible.
  - Green Forest will provide tutoring and summer school, if needed, to make sure each child completes grade-level standards.

### Positive COVID Test or Close Contact

- Staff and students must stay home if they have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Staff and students will be allowed to return 5 days after a positive COVID test if the individual is no longer experiencing symptoms.
- The CDC no longer recommends quarantine procedures for close contacts who are exposed in the school setting. Families will be notified if their child is identified as a close contact. However, it will be the decision of the parent whether or not they wish to exclude their child from school.

- Students who are excluded from school due to a positive COVID 19 test will work with their teacher and follow the schools AMI plan. Students will be counted in full attendance provided they complete the work during their time of exclusion.

### Screening of Students and 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 a 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).
- Students that have tested positive for COVID-19 may return if the following conditions are met:
  - 5 days have passed without symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours without use of medication.
  - 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

- Faculty, staff, and students may be tested on site by the school nurse. Students will not be tested without parental consent.
- Faculty and staff will visually screen students as they enter the building and go about the day. Student will be sent to the nurse for further screening if there is a concern or the appearance of symptoms in the student.

### 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.

## Arrival at School

- Students 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.

## 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 service will use individual packets of condiments if possible. If not, district employees will serve condiments using gloves and masks.
- Self-serve drink stations and communal pitchers/containers will not be used.
- Kitchen surfaces will be wiped down with disinfectant before food preparation begins.
- 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.

## 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) will be limited when possible and 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.

- Teachers will be provided with products necessary to sanitize desks and frequently touched surfaces in their classroom as much as possible.

### 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.
- 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.

### Shared Objects

- 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.
- Sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect will not be permitted

### Interruption to In-Person Learning

- In the event that the entire school is shut down due to COVID-19, 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 communicate with students via phone, email, and Microsoft Teams.

### 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 or if there are any questions or concerns relating to your child and the COVID-19 policies of the school.

### 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.

- Students 12 years and older and eligible for the vaccine are encouraged to receive the vaccine from an approved local provider. The school will not offer vaccinations on site but will work with local health agencies to offer vaccinations to any interested staff and students.

### 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>