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Reopening Guidance 2021 - 2022

School Year

Introduction

On July 15, 2020 the Agency of Education released guidance to aid all supervisory unions & school districts to establish a safe & healthy reopening plan in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. This prompted the Grand Isle Supervisory Union Leadership team to work collaboratively with faculty and staff to create a reopening and continued safety plan guided by the following principles:

- Must be SAFE
- Collaborative
- Follow VT AOE and VT Department of Health Guidance
 - Flexible and responsive to guidance as it evolves
- Translates between in person and remote instruction
- Follows the same parameters as the Continuity of Learning Plan (Safe/Ethical/Equitable)
 - Student-friendly/ Learner-centered
 - Support emotional health & social-emotional learning
 - Developmentally appropriate for students
 - Educationally viable/feasible
 - Supportive of teachers and their social-emotional health
 - Teacher health & safety
 - Fair and equitable for students on IEPs & 504 plans
 - Accommodations & modifications appropriately for students as needed
 - Be mindful of student health needs as well.
 - Ensuring access and equity for all students.
 - Keeping students safe and healthy
- Communication (Two way)

The leadership team would like to thank faculty and staff members that gave up time during their 2020 summer break to help create the original is plan. We would also like to express our appreciation to the community and family members that provided feedback during the community meetings and through their participation in surveys.

The COVID Coordinator for the Grand Isle Supervisory Union is District Nurse, Kristie Barber.

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Cleaning & Health Protocols

School health personnel should use the COVID-19 in Pediatric Patients Flow Chart (Pre-K – Grade 12) Triage, Evaluation, Testing, and Return to School in partnership with pediatric providers and families to guide medical decision-making. Students and staff who are sick should stay home. This is the most important prevention message.

All students and staff should stay home if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19;
- Have a fever (temperature greater than 100.4°F); or
- Are currently in quarantine due to close contact with an individual with COVID-19 or in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19.

If symptoms begin while at school, the student or staff member should be sent home as soon as possible, and the individual should be isolated from other staff and students until they can go home.

Clean and disinfect at least daily (or more, depending on use patterns) frequently touched surfaces and objects such as:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • Bathrooms | • Handrails |
| • Door knobs and handles | • Light switches |
| • Stair rails | • Handles on equipment (e.g., athletic equipment) |
| • Classroom desks and chairs | • Push-buttons on vending machines and elevators |
| • Lunchroom tables and chairs | |
| • Countertops | |

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Frequent hand washing/sanitizing is encouraged at all transitions. Signs will be placed around facilities reinforcing good hygiene practices and sneezing/coughing etiquette.

Universal and Correct Mask Wearing

As of March 14, 2022 in all GISU schools:

- Masks will be optional in all our school. Students, families, and staff will make the best decision for themselves and their families.
- The GISU will continue to have masks and test kits available in its schools.
- Expectations around masking will be updated according to the VT AOE guidance.

Modifying Facilities to allow for Physical Distancing

Building Use

As of March 14, 2022, Outside groups will follow the building use policy and process as outlined in each building.

Exterior Spaces

The public may use exterior school grounds. Outdoor recess space/playgrounds are open.

Visitors/Volunteers

As of March 14, 2022, outside visitors and volunteers will follow the policies and procedures as outlined in each building. Co-curricular activities may have volunteers. We will support the mentoring program.

Sharing Materials

Sharing of materials is allowable, however we recommend limiting the sharing of materials when possible moving forward.

All School In-person Meetings/Assemblies

As of March 14, 2022, all school in-person meetings and assemblies are permitted.

Field Trips

As of March 14, 2022, field trips are allowed.

Library

Resumes pre-covid procedures and protocol

Staff Room

Use as normal, no restrictions

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

As of March 14, 2022, seating charts are no longer required and school districts will no longer be responsible for contact tracing.

Students who are sick should stay home or be sent home.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

The GISU will continue to make test kits available to the learning community.

Efforts to provide Vaccinations to School Communities

“The best way to keep students safe and healthy – and to ensure a smooth return to full, in person learning is to make sure they are vaccinated if they are age 12 or older. The vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing the most serious effects of COVID-19, including against the Delta variant. The sooner your students get a first dose, the sooner they will be closer to full vaccine protection.” -Agency of Education COVID-19 Response team

At this time we do not have any additional vaccination clinics scheduled in GISU. We will update this notification if there is a change.

A full list of clinics, clinic hours and registration information can be found at:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies

Students who have chronic medical conditions will have their individual situation assessed by the school nurse. Individual Health Care Plans (IHPs), Individual Education Plans (IEPs), 504 Plans, and any other relevant documentation will be reviewed. Schools will contact the student's parents/guardians as well as the student's physician if needed. For students with IEPs or 504 plans, the child's team will meet to determine the nature, extent, and service delivery model. Any unique needs for children with disabilities relating to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will be addressed in that student's plan. More detailed information about the provision of special education or other needed student supports will be provided to families at your request.

Services to Address Students and Staff Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Other Needs

- Invest EAP is available for staff members
- Educational support teams are available at each building to provide support for students.
- Guidance counselors and school psychologist is available to students
- To provide additional support, the GISU will partner with UVM psychology interns to increase emotional and mental health support for students.

The Provision of meals or Other School Provided Services, even during a period of School Closure

The GISU schools will communicate to households that school meals programs are a safe and nutritious source of food, and make school meals applications available to households throughout the year to ensure that households with changing economic circumstances are aware of this form of assistance. Because households are especially likely to be facing food insecurity this year, consider referring households to additional forms of food assistance, such as 3SquaresVT and WIC. Consider offering free meals to all students ("Universal Meals") using Provision 2 or the Community Eligibility Provision. Because of temporarily higher rates of household poverty this year, this may be more financially achievable for the SU/SD than in prior years.