

Galesburg CUSD #205

Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan

Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of Galesburg CUSD #205 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan is to limit the spread of an illness and to decrease educational disruption while always maintaining privacy of our students and staff.

- Implement measures to decrease the spread of disease guided by Centers for Disease Control and Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Preserve continuity of essential school functions.
- Minimize educational and social disruption
- Minimize economic and academic losses.
- Communicate effectively with students, staff, families, health care providers, and the media.
- Ensure optimal safety of students and staff.

Plan Development and Maintenance

The entire Galesburg CUSD #205 Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan will be reviewed and revised annually, and as needed, by Galesburg CUSD #205's Pandemic Preparedness and Response Committee. The committee members are: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Curriculum, Safety Officer, Maintenance Director, Athletic Director, Health Services Coordinator, Communication Specialist, Registrar, and the English Language Learner Liaison.

Preparedness

This structure emphasizes that an effective response to a pandemic requires planning and action at many levels.

Training and Education: Minimum training and education will:

- Provide relevant information to the employees with preparedness and response duties in this plan.
- Update the Galesburg CUSD #205 web pages to include information for students, staff and families on pandemic illness preparedness.
- Educate secretaries annually and as needed on how to input student absences related to pandemic illness.

Risk and Emergency Communications: Effective response to a pandemic illness will require the school district to make proper and informed actions. Preparedness activities will include:

- Develop emergency alert system messages and fact sheets

- Staff and families will be notified via Skylert and district website
- Translations will be provided for families in need of information in other languages.
- Develop a risk-assessment and risk-management process for your schools. Work closely with local public health officials to develop a plan for assessing, managing risks, and referring staff and students as needed (i.e. conducting daily health screenings for illness-related symptoms during a pandemic)
- Develop a method for tracking illness related to staff and student absences. Determine what level of absenteeism will disrupt continuity of learning.
- Schools may be asked to report illness-related absences to the local public health department during a pandemic. Written consent may be needed to disclose a student's health information.
- Identify space that can be used to separate sick people, if possible. If possible, designate a nearby separate bathroom just for sick people. Develop a plan for cleaning the room at least daily.
- Plan to have extra supplies on hand during a pandemic (hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol with an ethyl methylene content, soap, tissues, trash baskets, and disposable face masks)
- Review laws and procedures related to school closing.

Response

This section includes the management, surveillance, and emergency communication procedures.

Phases 1 and 2: Interpandemic phase (virus that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low.)

- Staff training on preventative measures such as respiratory etiquette and universal precautions.
- Identification of potential high risk groups within the district: students/staff traveling to high risk areas, foreign travel, families with individuals living with them from other countries

Phase 2: No new virus has been detected in humans.

- Review and modify the plan as needed.
- Assess the quality and effectiveness of surveillance, make recommendations for improvements and implement recommendations as needed.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the number of illness related cases via information provided by CDC and IDPH.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the district's absenteeism related to illness.

Phase 3: Novel illness identified; no human-to-human spread

- Review and modify the plan as needed.

- Assess the quality and effectiveness of surveillance, make recommendations for improvements and implement recommendations as needed.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the number of illness related cases and novel illness via information provided by CDC and IDPH.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the district's absenteeism related to illness.

Phases 4 and 5: Some level of human-to-human transmission confirmed but not widespread

- Convene the Pandemic Preparedness Committee to review the plan.
- Assess the quality and effectiveness of surveillance, make recommendations for improvements and implement recommendations as needed.
- Activate communication procedures.
- Coordinate with the local health department and/or Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for guidance.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the number of illness related cases via information provided by CDC and IDPH.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the district's absenteeism related to influenza and novel illness.
- The Health Services Coordinator will monitor and institute recommendations from CDC, IDPH and the local health department for any additional surveillance activities that should be undertaken.

Phase 6: Confirmation of onset of a pandemic

- Meet with the Pandemic Preparedness Committee to review and fully activate the plan.
- Assess the quality and effectiveness of surveillance, make recommendations for improvements and implement recommendations as needed.
- Follow health department recommendations and guidelines related to social distancing, extracurricular activities, and school closing.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the number of illness related cases via information provided by CDC and IDPH.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring of the district's absenteeism related to illness.
- Follow guidelines of local and state health departments related to school closing and guidelines for pandemic episodes.
- Activate communication procedures.
 - Disseminate clear, accessible and understandable information to students, families and staff with the latest developments of any pandemic episode.
 - Educate employees, students, parents and visitors on how to minimize the spread of the virus.
 - Notices may be placed around the schools regarding hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes.
 - Set up prominent notices at all entry points to the facilities, advise staff, students and visitors not to enter if they have related symptoms of illness.
- Activate infection control procedures.

- Ensure adequate supplies of tissues, hand sanitizing gels, soap, water, and cleaning supplies are available for employees and students. Personal protective equipment will be provided to staff in high-risk areas.
 - Cleaning and sanitizing protocols will be increased.
 - Cleaning products will be utilized as guided by CDC and IDPH.
- Implement risk-assessment and risk-management plan as directed by the state and local health department.
- Activate E-Learning Plan protocol.
- The Health Services Coordinator will provide ongoing monitoring and institute recommendations from CDC, IDPH and the local health department for any additional surveillance activities that should be undertaken. .
- As a last resort and in consultation with public health officials, dependent upon the significance of the outbreak, consider if/when the school will close. Update everyone in your communication chain about when schools will reopen.

Recovery

Recovery is the development, coordination and execution of service and site restoration plans. Recovery involves actions needed to help individuals return to normal when feasible. In the event of a school closing, school recovery from a pandemic will begin when school officials determine that normal supplies, resources and response systems can manage ongoing school activities. The district will follow public health recommendations in the event specific actions are required to return to school including environmental sanitation. School opening will be communicated through Skylert, District website, local TV, radio stations and social media outlets.

Evaluate

- Discuss and note lessons learned. Gather feedback from staff, students, parents/guardians, and key community partners and stakeholders to improve your plans. Identify any gaps in your plans and any needs you may have for additional resources.
- Maintain and expand your emergency planning team. Identify agencies or partners needed to help you prepare for a pandemic and make an effort to add them to the planning team.
- Revisit risk-assessment and risk-management plan.
- Meet within 30 days after a pandemic ends

References

IDPH Pandemic Flu Plan

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/faq.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/archived/schools-child-care-planning.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/index.htm>