

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

(Executive Order 2020-142 District Preparedness Plan)

Revised 11:30 AM
07/24/20

Name of District: Au Gres-Sims School District

Address of District: 310 Court St. P.O. Box 648 Au Gres, MI 48703

District Code Number: 06020

Web Address of the District: www.ags-schools.org

Name of Intermediate School District: Bay Arenac ISD

Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable):

Preparedness Plan Introduction

Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-142](#) "provides a structure to support all schools in Michigan as they plan for a return of pre-K-12 education in the fall. Under the order, school districts must adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan laying out how they will cope with the disease across the various phases of the [Michigan Safe Start Plan](#). In turn, the accompanying Michigan Return to School Roadmap offers a guide to the types of safety protocols appropriate during each phase. There's no one-size-fits-all solution: What works in Lansing may not work in Sault Sainte Marie. Districts will retain the flexibility to tailor their instruction to their particular needs and to the disease conditions present in their regions." (EO-2020-142)

Each district (public, public school academy (PSA), nonpublic, and intermediate school district (ISD) that educates pre-K-12 students) shall submit a single completed Assurance Document and Preparedness Plan to its Board in time for approval by August 15 or seven days before the first day of school, whichever comes first. This template, when completed, serves as a single Assurance Document and Preparedness Plan.

The Preparedness Plan will be collected by the Intermediate School District for public school districts, the authorizing body for public school academies, or the chief/designated school administrator for nonpublic schools for transmission to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Treasurer by August 17, 2020. Additionally, this Preparedness Plan must be posted on the district's/PSA's, or nonpublic school's public website home page no later than August 17, 2020. A single application should be filed by the district rather than multiple applications for individual schools within a district.

Preparedness Plan Assurances

The District agrees to meet all of the following requirements of Executive Order 2020-142

- ✓ The District assures that when it provides in-person instruction to its students without disabilities, the district must also provide in-person instruction to its students with disabilities, consistent with their individualized education programs (IEPs).
- ✓ The District assures that when schools are closed to in-person instruction, districts must strive in good faith and to the extent practicable, based upon available resources, technology, training, and curriculum, as well as the circumstances presented by COVID-19, to provide equal access to any alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities from birth through age 26. This assurance includes the provision of auxiliary services under section 1296 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1296.
- ✓ The District assures that while any state of emergency or disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it shall comply with guidance from the United States Department of Education, including its Office of Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and the Michigan Department of Education concerning the delivery of alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities in light of the impact of COVID-19.
- ✓ The District assures that it shall, to the extent practicable and necessary, make individualized determinations whether and to what extent compensatory services may be needed for students with disabilities in light of the school closures during the 2019–2020 school year.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will close its buildings to anyone except: (a) District employees or contractors necessary to conduct minimum basic school operations consistent with a Preparedness Plan, including those employers or contractors necessary to facilitate alternative modes of instruction, such as distributing materials and equipment or performing other necessary in-person functions. (b) Food-service workers preparing food for distribution to students or their families. (c) Licensed child-care providers and the families that they serve, if providers follow all emergency protocols identified by the state.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will suspend athletics, after-school activities, inter-school activities, and busing.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will provide for the continued pay of school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Preparedness Plan, subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.
- ✓ The District assures that in **Phases 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will provide for the continuation of food distribution to eligible students.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 4** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will prohibit indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom.
- ✓ The District assures cooperation with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and agrees to collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last present in school.

Preparedness Plan

Every district must develop and adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (“Preparedness Plan”) that is informed by [Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap](#) (“Return to School Roadmap”) from the COVID-19 Task Force on Education and Return to School Advisory Council.

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-142 a plan must include all the following parts:

- A. The policies and procedures that the District will follow when the region in which the district is located is in **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan*.
 1. Describe how the district will offer alternative modes of instruction other than in-person instruction and a summary of materials each student and the student’s parents or guardians will need to meaningfully access the alternative modes of instruction included in the Preparedness Plan. If the Preparedness Plan relies on electronic instruction, the Preparedness Plan must consider how the district will aid students who lack access to computers or to the internet. This is also in the Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan submitted in April. You may want to update and link to this plan in your response below.

Click [here](#) to view the revised Continuity of Learning Plan for a Phase 1-3 school closure.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SxqnvqcwKf9Ur9_9gGHyoWKybuxXgiSt/view?usp=sharing

The district plans to use a remote model of instruction using online learning platforms as the primary mode of instruction (i.e. Google Classroom, Seesaw, Canvas). For those students that do not have a device, the district will provide devices. Students without devices or internet access will have access to instructional materials in printed form. Instructional materials (i.e. paper, pencils, etc) will be made available to families that do not have them. All students will have access to grade-level/course textbooks/resources as needed to complete their work. Students will not be penalized for inability to fully participate provided families stay engaged with school personnel in developing personalized and realistic education plans for their child. The district will do everything it can to meet student/family needs and allow for full participation.

Teachers/Staff will be expected to make weekly contact with students and have two-way communication. This may be done through the use of technology (i.e. virtual meeting, email, Remind) or through weekly phone calls. For students with technology access, teachers will also communicate multiple times each week through the instructional platform (i.e. Google Classroom, SeeSaw), with an emphasis on continuing to build relationships and maintain connections. If students do not have access to technology, teachers will provide instructional materials that focus on essential content, building relationships, and maintaining connections. We will encourage relationships between students through technology (virtual meetings, email), by phone or text, or by having students write letters to classmates.

For students with technology access, content will be delivered through the online platform. Teachers will be accessible for synchronous instruction (virtual meetings/office hours) at least once per week and asynchronous instruction through pre-made videos/lessons multiple times per week. For those students without technology, the main mode of delivery will be through hard copy instructional materials. This will be supplemented with phone conferencing to

support instruction. The instructional materials will be provided during meal distribution or mailed or delivered to the student if they do not participate in meal distribution.

For students with technology access, teachers will monitor student access and assignment completion on a regular basis within the instructional platform. Teachers will provide feedback to students on assignments through the instructional platform as they are completed. Teachers will differentiate instruction within the platform to meet each student's needs. For students without technology access, instructional materials/assignments will be collected each week during meal distribution. Teachers will review the materials/assignments and provide feedback to the student during their weekly communication (phone call, virtual meeting, or email). Feedback from the teacher will include differentiated work as needed, along with examples to support student learning.

The plan will be communicated through our School Messenger communication platform, according to the preferences our parents/guardians have chosen in that system. Parents will receive an email with the plan attached, and/or a voice message and/or text message directing them to our district website where they can access. The plan will be posted in a prominent location on our district website, and a link will also be posted on our district and building Facebook pages.

For our students in dual enrollment courses we will be working with the provider to determine next steps. We will ensure that the students have the appropriate materials and support to complete these courses. For students enrolled in CTE programs we will work with the CTC Principal/Director to ensure our students have the ability to complete these courses. When needed, the district will ensure the student has the necessary resources.

If a student has access to technology, teachers will use the instructional platform to monitor student wellness, engagement, and completion of assignments. They will also keep a log of communication with students and families. If a student does not have access to technology, teachers will keep track of which students are completing the weekly instructional assignments. They will also need to keep a log of all communication with students and families. Inconsistent completion and/or communication with a parent or student will be raised to the principal or counselor level to develop a plan to connect with the student and family. Additional support agencies may be sought to make these connections (31N Coordinator, DHHS, ISD supports etc.)

The district will survey all parents to determine current mental health needs and provide an online form for parents/students to request support. Based on the survey results or form requests, counselors (school counselor, 31N Coordinator, ISD supports) will reach out to individual students and families to determine what they may need. The counselors will help connect the family to outside agencies, if needed, to help meet their needs. Teachers will monitor and assess the needs of students and families through their weekly communications. If a need is identified, the teacher will elevate that need to the principal or counselor to make the necessary follow-up. The principal will hold regular virtual meetings with teachers and other key staff to identify any additional students or families in need.

B. The policies and procedures that the District will follow when the region in which the District is located is in **Phase 4** of the Michigan Safe Start Plan. Those policies and procedures must, at a minimum, include:

1. **Face coverings** (p. 22)

- a. Please describe how the district will implement **requirements** for facial coverings that at a minimum require the wearing of face coverings, except during meals and unless face coverings cannot be medically tolerated, for:
- i) All staff and all students in grades preK-12 when on a school bus.
 - ii) All staff and all students in grades preK-12 when in indoor hallways and common areas.
 - iii) All staff when in classrooms.
 - iv) All students in grades 6 and up when in classrooms.
 - v) All students in grades kindergarten through grade 5 unless students remain with their classes throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with students in another class.

Au Gres-Sims School District will implement the following safety protocols...

- Facial coverings must always be worn by staff except for meals. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. Any staff member who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff member that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear a facial covering.
 - PreK-5 and special education teachers should consider wearing clear masks.
 - Homemade facial coverings must be washed daily.
 - Disposable facial coverings must be disposed of at the end of each day.
- Facial coverings must be worn by preK-12 students, staff, and bus drivers during school transportation. Any staff or student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff or student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks.
- Facial coverings must always be worn in hallways and common areas by preK-12 students in the building except for during meals. Any student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks.
 - Homemade facial coverings must be washed daily.
 - Disposable facing coverings must be disposed of at the end of each day.
 - Note: Students with significant disabilities preventing the use of facial coverings are referred to forthcoming guidance from MDE.
- Facial coverings must be worn in classrooms by all students grades 2-12. Strongly recommended for grades K-1 with an educational piece in place to increase use throughout the day. Any student who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student who is incapacitated, or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one.
- All students in grades K-5 must wear facial coverings unless students remain with their classes throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with students in another class.
- Facial coverings should be considered for K-5 students and students with special needs in classrooms.
- Facial coverings should be considered for preK students and students with special needs in hallways and common areas.
 - Facial coverings are not recommended for use in classrooms by children ages 3 and 4 but will be worn in hallways and common areas.

- ❑ Facial coverings should never be used on children under age 2.

2. Hygiene

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for hygiene protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 22-23).

Au Gres-Sims School District will implement the following safety protocols...

- ❑ Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- ❑ Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- ❑ Educate staff and students on how to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately using proper hand hygiene techniques.
- ❑ Systematically and frequently check and refill soap and hand sanitizers.
- ❑ Students and teachers must practice scheduled healthy hygiene behaviors multiple times throughout the day.
- ❑ Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
- ❑ Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers, or lockers.
- ❑ Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between use, or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use.

3. Cleaning

Please describe how you will implement the cleaning **requirements** for cleaning protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 27).

Au Gres-Sims School District will implement the following safety protocols...

- ❑ [Frequently touched surfaces](#) including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, must undergo cleaning at least every four hours with either an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) or diluted bleach solution.
- ❑ Libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hands-on classrooms must undergo cleaning after every class period with either an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) or diluted bleach solution.
- ❑ Student desks must be wiped down with either an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) or diluted bleach solution after every class period.
- ❑ Playground structures must continue to undergo normal routine cleaning, but using an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) is [unnecessary](#).
- ❑ Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.

- ❑ Staff must wear gloves, surgical masks, and face shields when performing all cleaning activities.

4. Athletics

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for athletics protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 27).

Au Gres-Sims School District will implement the following safety protocols...

- ❑ Comply with all guidance published by Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
- ❑ Students, teachers, and staff must use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering. Every participant should confirm that they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to any event.
- ❑ All equipment must be disinfected before and after use.
- ❑ Inter-school competitions may be held provided that facial coverings are worn if school transportation is provided. Buses must be cleaned and disinfected before and after every use, as detailed in the subsequent “Busing and Student Transportation” section.
- ❑ Spectators are allowed provided that facial coverings are used by observers and six feet of social distancing can be maintained at all times. Attention must be given to entry and exit points to prevent crowding.
- ❑ Each participant must use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. There should be no sharing of this equipment.
- ❑ Handshakes, fist bumps, and other unnecessary contact must not occur.
- ❑ Indoor weight rooms and physical conditioning activities that require shared equipment are suspended. Outdoor physical conditioning activities are allowed while maintaining social distancing.
- ❑ Large scale indoor spectator events are suspended.
Large scale outdoor spectator or stadium events are limited to 100 people, and people not part of the same household must maintain six feet of distance from one another.

5. Screening

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for screening protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 24).

Au Gres-Sims School District will implement the following safety protocols...

- ❑ Schools must cooperate with the local public health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- ❑ Every school should identify and designate a quarantine area and a staff person to care for students who become ill at school.
- ❑ Students who become ill with symptoms of COVID-19 should be placed in an identified quarantine area with a surgical mask in place until they can be picked up. Identified school staff caring for these children should wear a surgical mask, with the exception of students with special needs requiring aerosolized procedures in which an N95 mask is required.
- ❑ Symptomatic students sent home from school should be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to [CDC guidelines](#).
- ❑ Staff should conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check, prior to

coming to work. If they exhibit any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they should stay home.

- ❑ A monitoring form (paper or electronic) for screening employees should be developed.
- ❑ Families are encouraged to check their child's temperature at home every morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal scanners; students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
- ❑ Families are encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. The presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the family to keep the student home from school and to follow up with a primary care provider.

6. Testing

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for testing protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 25).

Au Gres-Sims School District will implement the following safety protocols...

- ❑ Schools must cooperate with the local public health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- ❑ Students who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school should wear a mask and be transported by their parent or guardian, emergency contact, or ambulance if clinically unstable, for off-site testing
- ❑ Staff who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school should wear a mask and be transported for off-site testing.
- ❑ Symptomatic students and staff sent home from school should be kept home until they have [tested negative](#) for COVID-19, or have been released from isolation according to [CDC guidelines](#).
- ❑ Families should be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.
- ❑ In the event of a lab or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, immediate efforts should be made to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 15 minutes less than six feet in close proximity to the student or staff member) so that they can be quarantined for 14 days at home. Students and staff should be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, empiric testing of all students or staff members in the class is not recommended. Only those that develop symptoms require testing for COVID-19.
- ❑ Parents and guardians are encouraged to check students' temperature at home every morning using oral, tympanic (ear), or temporal scanners; students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater must stay home and consider coronavirus testing.
- ❑ Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. The presence of any unexplained symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the parent or guardian to keep the student home from school and to follow up with their primary care provider.

7. Busing and Student Transportation

Please describe how you will implement the **requirements** for busing and student transportation protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* (p. 28).

Au Gres-Sims School District will implement the following safety protocols...

- ❑ Require the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus. Hand sanitizer must be supplied on the bus.
- ❑ The bus driver, staff, and all students in grades preK-12, if medically feasible, must wear facial coverings while on the bus. Note: there may be situations where it is not safe for the bus driver to wear a facial covering. Decisions about these situations should be made on a case-by-case basis with local public health officials.
- ❑ [Clean and disinfect](#) transportation vehicles before and after every transit route. Children must not be present when a vehicle is being cleaned.
- ❑ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle (e.g., surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles) prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes.
- ❑ Clean, sanitize, and disinfect equipment including items such as car seats, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools daily.
- ❑ Create a plan for getting students home safely if they are not allowed to board the vehicle.
- ❑ If a student becomes sick during the day, they must not use group transportation to return home and must follow protocols outlined above. If a driver becomes sick during the day, they must follow protocols for sick staff outlined above and must not return to drive students.
- ❑ Weather permitting, keep doors and windows open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out.
- ❑ Weather permitting, consider keeping windows open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe.

C. Describe the policies and procedures that the district will follow when the region in which the district is located is in Phase 5 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan.

Our district will continue to implement the policies and procedures that are outlined above for Phase 4 in Phase 5.

1. Indicate which highly recommended protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* the district will include in its Preparedness Plan when the region in which the district is located is in **Phase 5** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan*.

Our district will implement all highly recommended guidelines outlined in Phase 5 for all of the areas outlined above.

2. Indicate which highly recommended protocols from the *Return to School Roadmap* the district will not include in its Preparedness Plan when the region in which the district is located is in **Phase 5** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan*.

Our district will implement all highly recommended guidelines outlined in Phase 5 for all of the areas outlined above.

- D. After considering all the protocols that are highly recommended in the *Return to School Roadmap*, please indicate if a school plans to exclude protocols that are highly recommended for any of the categories above in **Phase 4**.

No exclusions. Our district will implement all highly recommended guidelines outlined in Phase 4 for all of the areas outlined above.

Final Steps for Submission

Each district shall submit a single completed Assurance Document and Preparedness Plan to its Board of Education (in the case of a PSA, the Academy Board of Directors; in the case of a nonpublic school, the chief or designated school administrator) in time for approval by August 15 or seven days before the first day of school, whichever comes first.

Date of Approval by the District Board of Education, PSA Board of Directors, or nonpublic school chief/designated school administrator: July 27, 2020

Link to the Board Meeting Minutes or Signature of Board President, or signature of nonpublic school chief/designated school administrator: <https://5il.co/j21r>

Link to the approved Plan posted on the District/PSA/nonpublic school website: <https://www.ags-schools.org/continuity-of-learning--4>

The Preparedness Plan will be collected by the Intermediate School District for public school districts, the authorizing body for public school academies, or the chief/designated school administrator for nonpublic schools for transmission to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Treasurer by August 17, 2020. Additionally, this Preparedness Plan must be posted on the district's/PSA's, or nonpublic school's public website home page no later than August 17, 2020.

Name of District/PSA/Nonpublic Leader Submitting Plan: Chris Ming

Date Received by the ISD/Authorizing Body/Chief or designated School Administrator: August 4, 2020

Date Submitted to State Superintendent and State Treasurer: August 10, 2020