

GIFFORD
Consolidated Community School District #188
406 South Main • P.O. Box 70 • Gifford, IL 61847

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

The team met on July 8, 2020 and analyzed the survey results, toured classrooms, breakfast and lunch area, hallway traffic and discussed a multitude of topics from state directed guidelines to student learning. They met again on July 13 to review survey number two, discuss options and weigh the pros and cons of each. Yet, ensuring that the options reflect the feedback received from all stakeholders, while maintaining alignment with the proceeding guiding principles.

Guiding Principles

1. Maintain the health and safety of all students and staff by following the guidelines to the best extent possible;
2. Provide meaningful and engaging academic experiences for all students;
3. Address the social and emotional needs of all students;
4. Provide consistency and stability for all students and staff; and
5. Provide continuous professional learning opportunities for staff that address learning needs unique to this time.

Health and Safety Guidance for Families

The purpose of this policy is to outline health guidelines as they pertain to re-opening of Gifford CCSD #188. These guidelines are designed to ensure and promote the safety, health, and welfare of our community, in accordance with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recommendations. Some components of this document may be altered to reflect current data and recommendations as new guidelines are posted.

Students, faculty and staff will be required to stay home if they are sick. If an individual presents to school with the following symptoms, they will be sent home until return to school criteria (See #2 below) is met. Per IDPH-ISBE guidelines posted June 4, 2020, all students, staff and visitors will undergo symptom and temperature screening prior to entering the building.

1. Symptoms Requiring Absence

- a. COVID-19 like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) or exposure to COVID-19, the individual ***will be sent home***. Other symptoms may include sore throat, loss of taste/smell, headache, and fatigue.
 - i. Direct affected staff member or parent/guardian of affected student to call the the Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department (C-UPHD) hotline at (217) 239-7877 for guidance regarding symptoms to determine if testing for COVID-19 is warranted.

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- b. Exposure to COVID-19
 - i. Individuals must let the District Office know if they have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- C. Fever/chills/generalized body aches
 - i. Fever typically constitutes 100.4 degrees or higher indicates an acute illness, and the individual will be sent home.
- d. Sore Throat with fever over 100.4 or visibly swollen glands.
- e. Consistent coughing with pain or fever.
- f. The first 24 hours of antibiotic treatment for contagious illness (strep throat, pink eye, etc.).
- g. Active vomiting or diarrhea.

2. When to Return

a. **COVID-19 like symptoms:** (Per IDPH and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines).

i. Untested with COVID-19 symptoms:

1. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medications, and improvement of symptoms.

AND

2. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

ii. Tested positive with symptoms: *CUPHD will need to release from isolation.*

1. At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms

2. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medications, and improvement of symptoms.

AND

3. Two (2) negative COVID tests in a row, at least 24 hours apart, or a doctor's note authorizing safe to return to school, or school related activities.

iii. Tested positive without symptoms: *CUPHD will need to release from isolation.*

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1. At least 10 days have passed since the date of first positive test, and no symptoms have developed.

AND

2. Two (2) negative COVID tests in a row, at least 24 hours apart, or a doctor's note authorizing safe to return to school, or school related activities.

iv. Exposure to COVID-19: CUPHD will need to release from quarantine.

1. 14 days have passed since date of exposure, with no onset of symptoms (length of time during which symptoms will appear). *If the exposure was from a member of your household, an additional 14 days have passed since the positive person was released from quarantine.*

b. Other symptoms/non-COVID illness:

i. At least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medications.

ii. After 24 hours on antibiotics. iii. After 24 hours since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.

iv. With the doctor's note of clearance.

3. Nonpharmacological Intervention Recommendations for Communicable Disease

a. Stay home when you are sick.

b. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

c. Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Wash your hands with soap and water.

d. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

e. Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, and dry them

f. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.

g. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning sprays or wipes (ex: toys, desks, door handles, counters).

h. Ensure all vaccines are up to date; including flu shots

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- i. Promote non-contact methods of greeting.
- j. Practice physical distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from other people).
- k. Wear a mask or face covering when distancing is not possible.

4. When to wear a mask/face covering

- a. Per ISBE Return to School guidance, face coverings **must be worn at all times**, by both students and staff, while in the school building
- b. When walking into or out of the building with other students (i.e.: before/after school).
- c. While riding the bus.
- d. In public, anytime it is not possible to stay at least 6 feet away from other people..

5. Communicable Disease Monitoring

- a. Parents must notify the office when students are absent and relay symptoms to the office staff if calling a student in sick. This is necessary for illness tracking as required by IDPH.
- b. Visitors ***will not*** be allowed into the buildings.
- c. Parents picking up students early will wait outside and staff will walk students to the car.
- d. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entry doors to the building, on the bus, in the classrooms and stationed throughout the building. 6ft distance must be maintained between individuals as much as possible. Classrooms will attempt to keep 6 ft of social distancing to the best extent possible.

Start of School Recommendation

At this time, the Return to School Committee has determined that the best learning outcomes for students at GGS are to return to school for learning in some fashion. The two options presented will be in effect until September 4. Then the board and administration will reassess over the Labor Day Weekend. The committee's two options are:

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1. Blended/Modified Model: Students that choose to attend will learn from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and students that choose not to attend will receive Remote Instruction from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
2. A/B Schedule - Gold Group attends from 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and Purple Group attends from 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We believe that providing a consistent and stable learning environment is a critical element for student success. The guidelines set forth by ISBE / IDPH along with the support of parents talking and modeling to their children the guidelines set forth will assist Gifford Grade School in mitigating the risks to the best extent possible.

The District will require

- wearing face masks while in the school building (breaks to go outside or to the gym will be scheduled to remove masks for a few minutes throughout the day. Students at lunch, recess and PE will not be required to wear masks as long as six feet of social distancing is observed;
- social distancing to be observed *as much as possible* including on the bus;
- conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks on students before entering the school building (bus students will have their screenings and temperature checks taken as they exit the bus when at school); and
- prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space.

We also anticipate the interpretation of these guidelines may change during the course of the next few weeks/months. The District will update you when guidelines are changed.

The plan that follows represents the ongoing efforts of the administration and the Return to School committee to develop a Return to School plan for the 2020-21 school year.

Administration continues to monitor the public health situation within Champaign County, remains in constant communication with the Illinois State Board of Education, other Champaign County Schools and our neighboring high school districts (Rantoul High School and Armstrong High School), to share our thoughts and learn from each other.

The board of education on July 15, 2020 approved the following:

Blended/Modified Day: In-Person Learning All Day with Remote Learning Being Provided to those Students Not Attending Due to Parent Concerns

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Students Attending School

- 2020-21 School Calendar Followed
- Students begin on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 and are dismissed at 11:45 a.m.
- The *Blended Learning* school day begins August 19, 2020 and a regular school day will be followed: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. until further notice.
- Regular attendance and grading practices will be the norm.
- Where possible, teachers will move between classes instead of students. Exceptions would include PE, Special Education and RTI students.
- Restroom breaks will be scheduled for each grade level.
- Water fountains will not be used for consumption, but the automatic water bottle fillers will be available for use.

Students Not Attending School

- Remote Learning students will need to review and work independently on assignments provided by teachers using their Google Classroom each day for each subject; chrome books will be provided if needed. Students will be expected to get their 5 hours of instruction/completing work each day. Teachers and students will communicate each day from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. via phone call or virtually to instruct and answer questions from students. Students that do not have internet access will be provided hard copies of the learning material.
- Students and teachers will follow the same process the following day.
- Keep in mind that attendance will be taken every day. Students must participate in either a phone call or a virtual meeting every day with a teacher(s) or they will be marked absent. Also, assignments and tests will have due dates and be graded when given by teachers.

Morning Procedures

All students will have their temperature taken along with the screening questions at their respected entrance. The earliest a student may be dropped off is 7:45 a.m. These students will wait in the old gym until 8:05 a.m. All students will be released to the classrooms at 8:05 a.m.

Students wishing to eat breakfast will enter through the North doors (old gym).

K-2 students will enter the North doors. Staff will take temps and screenings.

3-5 students will enter the East doors facing the main road. Staff will take temps and screenings.

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6-8 students will enter the South recess door. Staff will take temps and screenings.

Bus students will be dropped off at the North doors, but will enter at their respected grade level doors.

****Each entrance has hand sanitizer for student use.*

****Inclement Weather - students will go directly to the classrooms at 8:05 a.m. and temperature checks and screenings will occur in the classrooms.*

Students with Symptoms / Fever

Students not meeting the screening will be isolated in the library and will wait there until a parent arrives. A staff member will monitor these students until a parent arrives. An N-95 mask and PPE while monitoring the student.

Breakfast / Lunch Room

Students will sit 6ft apart. No more than 50 students in the cafeteria. The library will be used if needed to seat the remaining students. Students waiting in line for a meal will wait on an "X" and then move forward accordingly. Once students receive their tray, they will enter the cafeteria and find a seat marked with an "X." Those on duty will assist with condiments, silverware, milk, napkins and cleaning. To speed the process up at least for the first few weeks, a staff member will enter lunch counts in the system as students are sitting at their tables.

PM Procedures

At 2:00 p.m. kindergarten through second grade bus students will be dismissed first, then grades three through five and finally junior high students via the intercom system. Once the busses depart, the remaining students will be dismissed via the intercom system and will exit the same doors as they entered in the morning.

Restroom Breaks

Each teacher will coordinate and determine when each grade level will take bathroom breaks throughout the day. Once restroom breaks are determined, each teacher will need to email the custodial staff so they can schedule cleaning accordingly.

Face Masks Breaks

Face masks breaks will occur during PE, recess, lunch time and also during times throughout the day established by teachers. Teachers will coordinate with each other to establish times.

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Multiple grade levels **may** have the same break time, but social distancing **must** be maintained during these breaks and different areas should be used on the premises.

Entering and Exiting Classrooms

Students and staff entering and exiting classrooms will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. Each homeroom has a sink with soap. Each classroom will also have hand sanitizer available to them throughout the day.

Bus Students

Students will be required to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the bus and masks must be worn while on the bus at all times. Hand sanitizer is provided on the bus. Drivers will seat students at the rear of the bus first. Social distancing will be observed to the best extent possible. Siblings and daycare students will sit together. Bus drivers will disinfect the bus daily.

Playground Equipment

At this time, the playground equipment will not be used because according to the guidelines, it must be washed down after each use. The district does not have the time or equipment to meet this requirement.

Sick Students

Students that get sick during the day will be moved to the quarantine area in the library. The student under supervision will wait there until a parent arrives.