

Georgetown Central School

Fall reopening 2020



Parent and Student Back to School

Georgetown Central School is committed to safely having students return for in-person learning this fall.

The following guide will act as Georgetown Central School's policies and protocols necessary for having students and staff return safely for in person learning. The following policies have been adopted from CDC guidelines and the Maine DOE "Framework for Returning to Classroom Instruction."

1

RED LEVEL

County has a high risk of COVID19 spread and **in person instruction cannot be conducted**

2

YELLOW LEVEL

County has an elevated risk of COVID19 spread and **hybrid instruction** models should be adopted.

3

GREEN LEVEL

County has a relatively low COVID19 risk and **in person instruction** can be adopted
SAU may opt for hybrid instruction.



Promoting
Behaviors that
Reduce Spread

Maintaining
Healthy
Operations

Maintaining
Healthy
Environments

Letter to
Families



Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

COMING TO SCHOOL

Beginning of the Day: Students can be dropped off between 8:20 and 8:45. Students must wear a mask if riding on the bus. All students must wear a mask. Self checks must be done by all students and staff before boarding busses or entering the school building.

Upon arrival, students will be met at the front door by staff, or they will meet staff outside. Self-screening must be complete before entry. Please maintain a six foot distance from others when waiting to enter the school building.

All students and staff must wash their hands or use hand sanitizing gel, upon entering the school building.

Parents/guardians/caregivers, will not be allowed in the building at drop off or pick up times. Staff will bring students out to parents waiting in cars at the end of day. There will be no in-person volunteers.



HAND HYGIENE

All students will wash/sanitize their hands upon entrance into the building, before and after eating, before and after removing face masks, after using the rest room, before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment, and upon entering and exiting a school bus.

The school will provide reminders throughout the day for students to wash his/her hands. Signage will be posted in classrooms and bathrooms to remind students of proper hand washing procedures.

FACE MASKS AND COVERINGS

Maine DOE has stated that in order for in-person instruction to resume this fall, all students and staff must wear face masks or coverings when inside the building. This will be an exception during lunch. **Mask breaks** will also be taken throughout the day, when students are physically distanced and windows can be opened.

Georgetown School, with assistance from the state of Maine, will provide disposable and cloth face masks to those students who do not come to school with their own.



When Should Students Stay Home?

Parents, caregivers and guardians should screen their children before sending them to school.

1. Do they have any symptoms related to COVID-19?
2. Have they been around anyone who is unwell?
3. Have they been around anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
4. Within in the past 24 hours, have they had a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, or used any fever reducing medication?

What if My Child(ren) Become/s Sick at School?

Georgetown Central School, as directed by Maine DOE and CDC, will have a **medical isolation room**, should any student become ill with symptoms associated with COVID-19.

The school will notify families immediately, and ask caregivers to pick up their child(ren), as soon as possible.

Any student or staff with symptoms related to COVID-19, must be symptom free for 72 hours before returning to school. If students test positive, a minimum home isolation of ten days is required.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

COHORTING - STUDENT GROUPS

Small cohorts of students reduces the risk of transmission spread, as well as allows for contact tracing and quick response time to any possible outbreaks.

This year, students will remain in their cohort classes for the **large majority of the day**, with the exception of lunch and recess. Georgetown groupings are as follows: Pre-K, Kindergarten, grades 1/2, grades 3/4, grades 5/6.

Lunch and Recess: Georgetown School will have daily, two lunch times and two recess times. Lunch for Pre-K-2, will take place from 11:20- 11:45, with recess to follow from 11:45- 12:15. Students will eat with their cohort during lunch time. Lunch for 3-6, will take place from 12:00- 12:25, with recess to follow from 12:25- 12:55.

Playground equipment: If the county is considered to be at a yellow level, students will not be allowed to use playground equipment. If the country is at a green level, students will be permitted to use playground equipment. Playground equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between recess times. All students will immediately wash hands upon entering the building from recess.

Diversified Arts (Specials): To limit student movement in the building, as recommended under maintaining healthy operation guidelines, art, music, gym, and guidance teachers will come to classrooms or meet students outside in a designated area. The library will be utilized by cohorts of students, following healthy hygiene and physical distancing guidelines.

Gatherings, Visitors and Field Trips

At this time, we will limit school gatherings as recommended by the Maine DOE, and volunteers or visitors will not be permitted into the building. Local field trips may be possible, if one cohort of students is traveling to an outside location for field study.

Staff will be encouraged to conduct virtual field trips with students when possible, and/or have volunteers or experts participate in zoom meetings with classes.



Recognize Signs and Symptoms

This can be an anxious time for all. Talking to your child(ren) and as a family about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 can keep us all safe. Staff and students will be encouraged throughout the day to check in with themselves and be aware about how they are feeling.

As a school, we will also take steps to support the emotional well being of students and staff. We will all pause to breath and check in with ourselves and others. It is important for everyone to take breaks from watching, reading and listening to news stories about COVID-19, especially if they are feeling overwhelmed. Please also encourage your child(ren) to talk about how they are feeling.

Communication and Student Attendance

To reduce the risk of transmission, Mrs. Willette and Mrs. McMahan are your points of contact for communication. Students, staff and parents should report any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 to Mrs. Willette or Mrs. McMahan.

Student attendance is **EXTREMELY** important. In order to keep our communities safe, we need to know when your child(ren) will not be at school and why. Please contact the main office when your child(ren) are going to be absent from school. We will be following up with families who do not report absences.

Physical Distancing

In accordance with Maine DOE requirements for in person learning, all adults must maintain a six foot distance from others to the extent possible. A three foot distance is acceptable for students combined with other safety measures; masks/face coverings, cohorts, screening, and hand hygiene. Students must maintain a six foot distance during breakfast and lunch.

We understand the social aspects that go along with schools. We will do our best to encourage play that follows guidelines, but also meets the social emotional needs of our students.

Maintaining Healthy Environments

Cleaning and Disinfecting

At Georgetown School, our staff is committed to maintaining clean and healthy environments. Our custodial staff has been working to thoroughly clean and disinfect all classrooms and common areas this summer.

To reduce the risk of spread, students will be asked to bring water bottles or cups - drinking from the water fountain will not be permitted.

Throughout the day, high touch areas will be cleaned frequently (doorknobs, desktops, faucets, bathrooms, computers, drinking fountains, light switches, etc). A daily schedule of cleaning will be developed for staff and teachers.

This summer, our ventilation system will be assessed to ensure adequate ventilation. To the extent possible, we will maximize air ventilation inside the building.

Food Service

As mentioned above, we will have two separate lunches for students to eat in the cafeteria. Following recommendations, students will sit with their cohort class groups in the cafeteria, and keep a distance of six feet apart.

Signage and distance markers will be used in the cafeteria to guide students. There is also the option for students to eat in classrooms, under teacher guidance, or eat outside together with teacher supervision.

In the event of school closure, the school will continue to provide school meals as needed.



Shared Objects

At Georgetown Central School, we recognize the importance of cooperative play, especially amongst our youngest population.

Student belongings will be kept separate in individual cubbies or areas. Students will not share electronics. Use of items that are difficult to disinfect will be discouraged. Adequate high touch supplies will be provided individually to students (crayons, pencils, etc).

Groups of students may use shared materials. Students will wash hands before and after use, and materials will be cleaned and disinfected between use as much as possible.

Remote Instruction

Remote instruction will be allowed for students with health elevated health risks, or family members with elevated health risks. You must complete this [form](#) by August 17th. The commitment is until December break.

Red Level

In this scenario, all learning will be remote. Students will have access to one to one devices. The school will communicate expectations for remote distance learning, inclusive of grading policies and procedures. Students and teachers will have access to online programs to assist in transitioning to 100% remote learning.

Yellow Level

In this scenario in-person learning will still be happening, due to Georgetown's small classroom sizes. It may be suggested by the principal and superintendent, that a hybrid model of in person and remote learning be developed, in order to keep staff, students and community members safe. This would be four days of in person learning, and one day of remote learning; the remote learning day would be Wednesday. Staff or students that are deemed high risk may also be asked to work/learn remotely.

Green Level

In this scenario, school would be in person five days a week, with safety health protocols put in place as recommended by Maine DOE and the CDC.

Dear Families and Students,

Please know that teachers and staff have the best interests of your child(ren), your family and our communities at heart. These protocols and procedures will not last forever, but they are what we must all do in order to keep one another safe from the spread of COVID-19. Please think ahead to brighter days, when we can resume normally in our lives and watch our children flourish having persevered through such a challenging societal time.

We are here to support you in whatever you need. As a school, we feel strongly that the best place for students to be is at school, even if it is under these strict guidelines. Guidelines are changing daily. Please note that we will continue to use this guide as a working draft.

Kind regards,

Georgetown Central School Staff

