

# FAQs About the Return to School Plan

School District of Gilman

## Health Questions

1. **Should I screen my child for COVID-19 symptoms before sending him/her to school?**
  - a. Yes, please screen your child for COVID-19 related symptoms before sending him/her to school.
2. **Will staff members be screened for symptoms?**
  - a. Yes, staff members will perform a daily self-screening prior to reporting to the school building.
3. **What symptoms should I screen my child for?**
  - a. Please check your child for the symptoms below.

High-Risk Symptoms	Low-Risk Symptoms
New Cough	Congestion/Runny Nose
Difficulty Breathing	Diarrhea
Loss of Taste or Smell	Sore Throat
Fever of 100.0 F or higher	Headache
Nausea, Vomiting	Muscle Aches

4. **What is the procedure if a student or staff member exhibits COVID-19-related symptoms before coming to school?**
  - a. If the student or staff member has one high-risk COVID-19 symptom or two (or more) low-risk COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home and contact their health provider. The student or staff member should follow normal procedure for reporting an absence.
5. **Will the school require daily temperature checks?**
  - a. No, at this time, we are requesting that parents/guardians complete the health screening of their child/ren at home.
6. **How will the school respond if a student is showing symptoms of COVID-19?**
  - a. Our teachers will closely monitor the health of our students. If a student is demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent to the health room. Parents/guardians will be contacted to pick-up their child within one hour of being contacted.
7. **What is the procedure if my child doesn't feel well but does not demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19? Where will they go? Will they be around other sick kids? How will you notify me?**
  - a. If a student is feeling ill, they should inform their teacher. Their teacher will direct the student to the health room. A separate health room will be used for issues that are not connected to COVID-19. Parents/guardians will then be contacted via phone.

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### 8. What if there is a COVID-19 positive case in the school?

Taylor County Health Department will contact the individual, communicate with the school to assist with contact tracing, and contact any individual who has been in close contact (15 minutes within 6 feet of the person) with the COVID-19 patient. The close contacts would then need to be quarantined and remote instruction will take place.

### 9. If a student or staff member has been in isolation or quarantine (with or without symptoms), when can they return to work/school?

- a. **Tested positive for COVID-19:** Taylor County Health Department will determine when to release the individual from isolation/quarantine. Typically, isolation/quarantine will last up to 14 days.
- b. **Close contact but did not test positive:** Taylor County Health Department will determine when to release the individual from isolation/quarantine. Isolation/quarantine may last up to 14 days.

### 10. Who will inform me if my child has been exposed to a case of COVID-19?

- a. Taylor County Health Department will contact all students and staff members who are in close contact with a positive case of COVID-19 and provide information regarding next steps.
- b. No announcements will be made by the School District of Gilman unless there is a change in risk level and/or school closure.

### 11. What if a student/staff member demonstrates symptoms but refuses to get tested?

- a. Legally, the district can require students and/or staff members who demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms to quarantine for 14 days with or without a test.

## Educational Options Questions

### 1. Will students be in the building for the 2020-2021 school year?

- a. Yes, our plan is to provide face-to-face education five days per week for all students to start the school year. This plan is subject to change based upon the risk levels of COVID-19 in the School District of Gilman.

### 2. If I don't feel comfortable sending my student to the school building, what other educational options are available?

- a. Virtual, at-home learning options are available for students of all grade levels in the School District of Gilman. Resources and information are provided through the links below.
  - i. To learn more about Gilman's virtual school, eSucceed, go to [www.esucceed.org](http://www.esucceed.org)
  - ii. FAQ for eSucceed Virtual School <https://esucceed.org/faq/>
  - iii. Why eSucceed Virtual School is a great virtual school option <https://esucceed.org/why-esucceed/>
  - iv. What middle and high school students can expect at eSucceed <https://esucceed.org/about/esucceed-program-description/>
  - v. Middle and high school course offerings <https://esucceed.org/about/course-offerings/>

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- vi. What elementary students can expect at eSucceed  
<https://esucceed.org/elementary/>

**3. If I enroll my child full time into eSucceed, will my child/ren be provided a computer and internet access?**

- a. Yes, eSucceed will provide the student a computer and internet access if internet access is not currently available to the student.

### Student and Staff Safety and Hygiene Questions

**1. Will students and staff be required to wear facial coverings?**

- a. Yes, students and staff will be required to wear masks. If a student or staff member is unable to wear a mask, medical documentation will need to be provided and reasonable accommodations will be made for the individual. Reasonable accommodation may include a face shield or virtual at home learning.

**2. Will students and staff be able to take breaks from wearing facial coverings during the school day?**

- a. Yes, facial covering breaks will be allowed throughout the school day. Students are not required to wear facial coverings when eating or participating in outside activities when social distancing is followed. Additionally, teachers will be encouraged to utilize outside space for instruction when practical.

**3. Do I need to provide my student a facial covering?**

- a. Parents/guardians need to provide a facial covering for their child/ren. The School District of Gilman will provide one (1) reusable mask per student and will distribute once the masks are delivered (will be available in the coming weeks).

**4. What qualifies as a suitable face covering for my child?**

- a. Per Governor Evers' Emergency Order, "face covering" means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. A "face covering" includes but is not limited to a bandana, a cloth face mask, a disposable or paper mask, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. A "face covering" does not include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, or masks with vents.

**5. Will students and staff members have to wear facial coverings for the entire school year?**

- a. The current Emergency Order issued by Governor Ever is in effect until September 28, 2020. Once the order is lifted, we will assess our local conditions to determine our next steps regarding facial coverings.

**6. What hygiene and safety precautions will be taken in the classroom?**

- a. Classrooms desks and tables are set-up to promote social distancing between students as practical. Plexiglass shields will also be utilized as a protective shield between students and teachers during group work and conferencing. High touch surfaces will be cleaned with soap and water throughout the day.

**7. What is the cleaning procedure for the school building and facilities?**

- a. Cleaning and disinfecting of the building, playgrounds, and school buses will occur daily. High touch surfaces will be cleaned with soap and water throughout

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the day. The building and playground will be disinfected using industry safety standards once per day outside of school hours.

- 8. How often will students and staff wash their hands?**
  - a. Regular opportunities for handwashing and hand sanitization will be provided throughout the school day. Hand sanitizer and/or hand-washing stations will be available in all classrooms.
- 9. Are students allowed to disinfect desks, chairs, etc?**
  - a. No. According to safety guidelines, students under the age of 18 are not allowed to use disinfectant products.
- 10. Are the 4K and K classrooms getting rid of their toys?**
  - a. No, toys will remain in the classroom as a developmental and social tool. Toys will be cleaned on a regular basis.
- 11. Are classrooms with tables now getting desks to accommodate distancing for the number of students?**
  - a. To the extent possible, we will replace as many tables with desks. Some classrooms may still have tables. In these rooms, the tables and chairs will be social distanced, and plexiglass dividers will be utilized.
- 12. Will drinking fountains be used?**
  - a. We encourage the use of water bottles by our students and staff members. Water bottle filling stations will be available throughout the school building. If a student does not have a water bottle, the school will work with the student and family to provide a water bottle.

### **Transportation Questions**

- 1. Will bus transportation be provided for students to and from school?**
  - a. Yes, bus transportation will be provided for our students to and from school.
- 2. Will face coverings be required on the school bus?**
  - a. Yes, students are required to wear face coverings on the bus.
- 3. How many students will be allowed to sit per seat?**
  - a. One student will be allowed per seat, unless they are members of the same family/household.
- 4. What are the cleaning procedures for the buses?**
  - a. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily using industry safety standards.
- 5. Can my student bring his/her friends home on the bus if his/her friends don't typically ride that bus route?**
  - a. No, in an effort to promote student and driver safety and health, students that are not assigned to a specific bus route will not be allowed to ride the bus.

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## Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Questions

- 1. What time are students allowed in the school building? Can I walk my student to their classroom?**
  - a. The doors to the school building will open at 7:55 AM. Parents and students who arrive early will be asked to wait in their cars until the building opens. Parents may walk their child to Door #1. Teachers, aides, and lead students will then help direct students to their classrooms.
- 2. Can I wait in the entryway of the building to pick-up my child after school?**
  - a. No, parents/guardians are asked to remain in their vehicles and wait for their child to be brought out to the sidewalk
- 3. Will there be access to the building during the school day?**
  - a. Public access to the building during the school day is limited. Parents and visitors will use Door 1 and report directly to the office. Student drop-off is at Door 1.
- 4. I am a student who drives to school. Will I still enter the building through the Commons' doors?**
  - a. No, you will enter the building through the Door #16, which is located on Fifth Avenue and it's next to the greenhouse. Students will still park in the student parking lot. Entry through this door will promote cleanliness of the cafeteria during breakfast.

## Food Service Questions

- 1. Will breakfast be available for students?**
  - a. Breakfast will be offered in a grab-and-go option. Students may be eating their breakfast in the classroom versus the cafeteria.
- 2. How will the lunch period operate?**
  - a. Students will wash/sanitize their hands prior to reporting to the cafeteria.
  - b. Students will practice social distancing in the lunch line. This may result in staggered release times for our students to the cafeteria.
  - c. Students will use their ID badge to scan their lunch code instead of entering it in by hand on keypad.
  - d. Meals will be dished and served by the kitchen staff.
    - i. Plexiglass shields have been installed across our meal service carts.
    - ii. All food staff will be required to wear masks and personal health monitoring of staff will be completed each day.
- 3. Will students each lunch in the cafeteria?**
  - a. At this time, students will eat their lunch in the cafeteria. The cafeteria will be limited to 96 students, and school distancing will be exercised at the tables in the lunchroom.