

GEYSER SCHOOL DISTRICT #38

WRANGLER SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDELINES

Reviewed and Revised _____2/21/24_____

Introduction:

Information contained in this document is based on the review and comments of a diverse set of community members who bring a variety of knowledge to help the school implement a plan to provide a safe return to school by our staff, students and community members.

This document is intended to be a guide and changes may occur rapidly based on recommendations from state and federal agencies. This document is arranged by Phase I, II, and III to remain consistent with the State of Montana Reopening Guidelines.

This document will address the following categories of the reopening plan.

Academic

Physical and Structure

Social, Emotional, Behavioral

Business

Transportation

Extracurricular, Activities, Athletics

Phase I-(Ended 22 May 2020)

- Geyser School will be closed to onsite instruction and all student activities.
- Geyser School will provide remote learning opportunities.
- Geyser School will provide access to school meals.
- Geyser School will provide services (in conjunction with the Special Ed
- Co-op) to students with disabilities, and any other services customarily provided in a school setting.

Phase II-(Started 19 August 2020)

Geyser school will provide in-person instruction and remote learning Opportunities after developing a Health and Safety Plan, developed in coordination with local health officials. The year 2020-2021 school year began in Phase II. Students who

were unable/unwilling to come to a full capacity building had to meet with the school administration to set up a learning plan focused on the core subject areas. Distance learning plans were set up on a quarterly basis for those students.

Phase III-Current State

School districts will provide in-person instruction only after developing a Health and Safety Plan, developed in coordination with local health officials

NOTE:

It is recommended that parents and community members continue to monitor for changes to this plan as they occur and other important announcements by contacting the Geyser School Office at 406-735-4368.

ACADEMIC	
	Students who opt out of in person instruction will be provided remote learning education. Parents must complete Form 1908F.
	Students and Staff will be encouraged to wear face coverings or other PPE but <u>it is not required</u> . Students and staff will be provided with washable/disposable masks
	Accommodations will be made for staff and students who are in a high risk group or caring for individuals in a high risk group.
	Teaching staff will receive professional development training in effective ways to use current technology to provide a quality remote learning environment.
	School reopening guidelines and training will be provided to all substitute employees of the district.
	In the event of a positive COVID-19 test of a student or staff member; school will quarantine those individuals who are

	deemed necessary at the behest of the county health department.
	<p>Students and parents will be asked to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and potential exposure. If a student exhibits symptoms or has been exposed, then they must stay home from school and seek medical attention.</p> <p>If a student exhibits symptoms (fever, sore throat, coughing, upset stomach) in school, they will be isolated until a parent can be notified to pick the student up. Students must be <i>fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing aides</i> before they return to school.</p> <p>Students may have their temperature taken before entering the bus or any building. Those with a temperature of above 100 degrees will be sent home. Frequent hand washing or sanitizer will occur between each period or upon changing rooms.</p>
Physical and Structural	
	<p>Student desks will be spaced as far apart as room allows. Classes with tables will be replaced with desks to allow for social distancing as much as possible.</p>
	If the need arises, recesses will be staggered and equipment will be cleaned between groups.
	If the need arises, lunch/breakfast schedules will be staggered to allow for proper social distancing in the lunchroom during meals. Will allow time for cleaning between groups.
	All components of the breakfast and lunch program will be served by qualified personnel to individuals. Grab and go and salad bar, self-serve options will be eliminated.
	Masks will be provided for people present or visiting the building.
	Office staff will continually wipe down all high touch areas in the office area.

	Thermometers will be provided to all teachers, aides, bus drivers, and office staff for screening of students, as necessary.
	“Sick bay” room will be created as a place for sick students to be placed while awaiting pick-up by parents.
	Bulk milk for the breakfast/lunch program will be replaced by individual milk cartons.
	Disinfectant wipes will be present in all rooms for staff to utilize as necessary.
	Mist sprayers will be used to disinfect larger areas on a regular basis, i.e. ,playground equipment, lockers, gym, shop etc.
	Plexiglass will be placed where needed to limit exposure by visitors.
	Signage will be placed throughout the school to continue to educate students, staff, and community about safe protocols in regard to COVID-19.
Social, Emotional and Behavioral	
	Resources will be provided to staff, parents, and students to help them deal with trauma associated with COVID-19 events.
	Staff will report to administration students who may be experiencing trauma due to the circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic so proper resources can be provided to the teacher and/or parent.

Business	
	1900 Series policies will be reviewed and updated to meet the needs of the district as changes occur.
	School Officials will work with appropriate persons to ensure that technology status and operational needs are adequate to meet the needs for the students and staff and to be able to conduct business as needed.
	School will work with Judith Basin County DES to access PPE as needed by the district.
School will designate? Or hire?	District may designate a COVID-19 Custodian to help meet the needs of cleaning during the instructional day and/or activities.
	School officials will work with teacher representation in the event that change in working conditions or other requirements are placed on teachers due to the pandemic.
Transportation	
	Bus drivers will clean buses thoroughly and regularly.
	<p>All bus inhabitants must wear masks, as mandated by the Federal Government.</p> <p>Route drivers may take the temperature of each student before they get on the bus. Any student with a fever of 100 degrees or higher, or coughing, will not be allowed on the bus.</p>
	Students may be assigned seating with only one student per seat where possible.

	DGS Co-op bus will practice proper distancing as practical as the driver will clean and disinfect the bus between trips. (May include E-Bus, Suburban, Mini-Van)
	EBus Routes will space students as practical given the limited seating capacity, masks will be required for all riders of the EBus, and drivers will thoroughly and regularly clean and disinfect vehicles.
Extra-Curricular, Activities, and Athletics	
	All concessions staff will adhere to sanitation protocols.
	Concessions serving area will have a plexiglass barrier for serving.
	Students who opt out of on-site education (1908F Policy) will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities or travel with school groups.
	Proper distancing as practical may be applied on all bus activity and sports trips with the DGS co-op.
	School Assemblies and other large gathering activities will be evaluated as they occur and determined if they are practical given the current state of the pandemic at the time.

Safety Measures:

Regardless of the Phase the state is under, safety of students and staff is paramount. Students/staff not feeling well or running a temperature must stay home as per school policies. Standard health protocols will be followed:

- Frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer
- Cough in
elbow
- Sneeze in
tissue and toss
it into garbage
- Social

distancing as
much as
possible

- Elbow bumps
instead of
handshakes

Avoid touching face, nose, eyes, or mouth Social distancing or masks when distancing is not possible Frequent sanitizing of occupied spaces
Temperatures of students/staff/parents may be taken a minimum of once a day after entering the building. If a student has a temp of 100 or more, they will be isolated, and sent home.

Students/staff who exhibit symptoms will be given a mask to wear. Students, staff or visitors who exhibit or report signs or symptoms of Covid 19 will be sent home until they meet the following criteria: ► 24 hours with no fever without the use of Tylenol, improvement of symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath), and 5 days since symptoms first appeared If symptoms can be attributed to another illness (positive flu or strep test) these guidelines do not apply.

Students or staff with a known acute exposure to a positive Covid 19 case (close contact as defined by the CDC is anyone who was within 3 feet of a positive case for at least fifteen minutes) or a positive test will be excluded from school grounds/activities until they have completed the 5-day quarantine required by the County Health Department.

To return to in school classes/activities, the 5-day quarantine requirement must be met. Questions concerning quarantine requirements will be referred to the Health Department.

Health Precautions for all: Teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff.

Additional key times to wash hands include:

- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- After using the restroom.
- Before eating or preparing food.
- After contact with animals or pets. Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child). > Practice social

distancing; three-foot separation between individuals whenever possible. Teach the use of face coverings among all staff. Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings may be worn by staff and encouraged in students (particularly older students) if feasible.

Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom and should be used frequently when hand washing cannot occur. Encourage students to bring their own clearly labeled water bottles for drinking water throughout the day as a means to reduce unnecessary contact at the filling stations in the school.

- The first line of defense to prevent the spread of disease is to **stay home when you are feeling ill or have a temperature.**

Plan for when a staff, child, or visitor becomes sick

Arrange for safe transportation home or to a healthcare facility for anyone sick. Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfecting. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children. Advise sick staff members not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.

At Risk Groups

Accommodations for students, teachers and staff in at-risk groups or for those caring for someone in an at-risk group will be determined after a meeting between school personnel and the involved parties. At risk groups are defined by the CDC as those:

- a. Over the age of 65
- b. With underlying medical Conditions
 - i. Chronic Kidney **disease**
 - ii. COPD
 - iii. Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant
 - iv. Conditions Obesity (BMI 30 or higher)
 - V. Serious Heart Condition (heart failure, CAD, cardiomyopathies)
 - vi, Sickle Cell **Disease** vii. Type 2 Diabetes

Provide additional accommodations for staff in at-risk category, i.e. teaching classes remotely, utilizing a larger classroom where social distancing can be maintained, given an option to teach remotely.

Cleaning:

Cleaning will be frequent using CDC approved cleaning materials or a bleach solution. Under all phases, sanitizing will occur daily:

Classrooms:

Commonly touched surfaces disinfected at least once daily. Desktops and table tops disinfected daily. Rooms aired out weekly if weather permits or if a Covid-19 case is found in the class. Windows open as much as possible during fall and spring.

Restrooms:

Sanitized daily—Attention to commonly touched surfaces (handles, knobs, dispensers, switches, etc.), in accordance with CDC.

Technological devices:

Laptops will be cleaned daily with the following procedures: Must clean after each use or daily if assigned to a particular student. Cleaning steps may include the following: Completely power down and unplug the power cord if you are cleaning a Chromebook. Disconnect any cable or peripherals that are plugged into the Chromebook. Use the disinfectant wipe or apply a small amount of rubbing alcohol solution to the cloth and completely wipe down the entire Chromebook but no wet products on the screen. The school will have computer wipes available. After everything is dry, use a dry microfiber to buff the screen to remove any smudges.

Signage:

Signage at each public entrance of the facility to inform all faculty, staff and students that they should: avoid entering the facility if they have a respiratory symptom such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and/or a fever; maintain a minimum three-foot distance from one another

Signage posting a copy of the Social Distancing Protocol at each public entrance to each building and restrooms. (Distance guidelines will be according to the Governor's Office and CDC. Post signage from CDC on how to use face masks, how to wash hands, how to use hand sanitizer in each building and restrooms.

This Health and Safety Plan will be approved by the Board of Trustees and shared with the public via the school website. Students, faculty, staff and families will be provided with information on obtaining additional information and answers to questions.

Faculty and staff will be trained on this Health and Safety plan prior to the start of in facility instruction. This can be accomplished by in person staff training sessions. During this training staff should receive training on screening tools and use of screening/cleaning protocols and requirements.

Special Education

Students with disabilities shall receive services in accordance with the applicable Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan based on methods and locations agreed upon and documented by the applicable team to meet the student's needs and goals. The supervising teacher or building administrator shall coordinate with parents and the special education staff or cooperative to ensure all applicable statutes are followed in accordance with U.S. Department of Education guidelines.

Individualized services during periods of remote or blended learning must be constructed with parent involvement and approval, to allow a child to make progress on goals and advance in the general curriculum, based on the unique needs of the student. Such service may include:

Alterations to IEP goals to account for revised learning demands of the general education environment. Alterations to direct services, provided through phone, video conference, or in person instruction following social distancing guidelines.

- Alterations of accommodations, taking into account the demands of technology based remote learning plans.
- Specific focus on parent training and consultation, to support students in attaining their individualized goals. The need for extended learning opportunities to mitigate skills lost due to gaps in instruction.
- Plan for when a staff, child, or visitor becomes sick

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing will be carried out when deemed necessary by the county health department.

- Cooperate with County Health Department and provide any needed

information. Information can be shared with custodial crew to help them coordinate custodial maintenance and cleaning.

Transportation

- Ensure bus staff have masks, disinfectant wipes, sanitizers, safety face shields, etc.
- Students will be discouraged from transporting non-family members in their vehicles.
- Buses are sanitized/cleaned regularly.
- Routinely sanitize commonly touched areas (handrails, seat backs, etc.). Windows opened to air out the bus weather permitting.

When using a face covering to help prevent the spread of infection please make sure to follow the following precautions:

- The mask should be worn by only one person
- The mask should cover the mouth and nose at all times when being worn
- Mask should be washed daily
- Please continue to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Please continue to be vigilant about washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds during the day but especially after touching anything that might be contaminated
- Please use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available or convenient. . Please continue to practice social distancing

What is a face mask used for;

Facemasks help limit the spread of germs. When someone talks, coughs, or sneezes they may release tiny drops into the air that can infect others. If someone is ill a face mask can reduce the number of germs that the wearer releases and can protect other people from becoming sick. A face mask also protects the wearer's nose and mouth from splashes or sprays of body fluids.

When should a face mask be worn? Consider wearing a face mask when you are sick with a cough or sneezing illness (with or without fever) and you expect to be around other people. The face mask will help protect them from catching your illness. Healthcare settings have specific rules for when people should wear face masks.

How to put on and remove a face mask Disposable face masks should be used once and then thrown in the trash. You should also remove and replace masks when they become moist. Always follow product instructions on use and storage of the mask, and

procedures for how to put on and remove a mask. If instructions for putting on and removing the mask are not available, then follow the steps below.

How to put on a face mask

- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before touching the mask.
- Remove a mask from the box and make sure there are no obvious tears or holes in either side of the mask.
- Determine which side of the mask is the top. The side of the mask that has a stiff bendable edge is the top and is meant to mold to the shape of your nose.
- Determine which side of the mask is the front. The colored side of the mask is usually the front and should face away from you, while the white side touches your face.

Follow the instructions below for the type of mask you are using.

- *Face Mask with Ear loops*: Hold the mask by the ear loops. Place a loop around each ear.
- *Face Mask with Ties*: Bring the mask to your nose level and place the ties over the crown of your head and secure with a bow.
- *Face Mask with Bands*: Hold the mask in your hand with the nosepiece or top of the mask at fingertips, allowing the headbands to hang freely below hands. Bring the mask to your nose level and pull the top strap over your head so that it rests over the crown of your head. Pull the bottom strap over your head so that it rests at the nape of your neck.
- 6. Mold or pinch the stiff edge to the shape of your nose.
- 7. If using a face mask with ties: Then take the bottom ties, one in each hand, and secure with a bow at the nape of your neck. Pull the bottom of the mask over your mouth and chin.

How to remove a face mask

- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before touching the mask. Avoid touching the front of the mask. The front of the mask is contaminated.
- Only touch the ear loops/ties/band. Follow the instructions below for the type of mask you are using.
- *Face Mask with Ear loops*: Hold both of the ear loops and gently lift and remove the Mask.
- *Face Mask with Ties*: Untie the bottom bow first then untie the top bow and pull the mask away from you as the ties are loosened.
- *Face Mask with Bands*: Lift the bottom strap over your head first then pull the top

strap over your head.

- Throw the mask in the trash if disposable and will only be used once. If your mask is cloth and to be used again, place in the laundry for laundering before you use it again. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

Know how it spreads

- There is currently a vaccine to help prevent or mitigate the Covid-19 virus for ages 5+. It is highly recommended that staff and families consider obtaining the Covid-19 vaccine.
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 3 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - Studies have shown that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone Should:

Wash your hands often!

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your mask
 - After changing a diaper
 - After caring for someone sick
 - After touching animals or pets
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- Inside your home: Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - If possible, maintain 3 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- Outside your home: Put 3 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - Stay at least 3 feet from other people.
 - Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Recommending of mask use:

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
 - Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Do NOT use a mask meant for a healthcare worker. Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Continue to keep about 3 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs,

light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

- If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work.

Monitor Your Health Daily

- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Especially important if you are running essential errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 3 feet.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
 - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.