

Goodhue County Education District

2021-22 Safe Learning Plan

(Subject to Change)

Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority for our district, our students and our families.

The Goodhue County Education District is planning to start the 2021-22 school year with all grades attending school in-person five days a week. School begins for students on Tuesday, September 7.

The health and safety of our students and staff remain our top priority. Updated COVID-19 guidelines will be in place for the 2021-22 school year. Protocols will include a mask requirement for all students ages 2 and up, staff and visitors regardless of vaccination status, daily cleaning and disinfecting of buildings, improved ventilation systems and maintenance, frequent handwashing, assigned seating and cohorting of students, contact tracing, exclusion of sick students and staff from school, and availability of COVID-19 vaccination and testing. **More details on the updated protocols follows.**

We look forward to welcoming students back in September!

2021-22 Safe Learning Plan with Detailed COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines

The following COVID-19 prevention guidelines will be in place for the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. Guidelines will be updated in line with any changes to recommendations from the [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). For full details, refer to the [GCED COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines \(PDF\)](#).

Contents

[Masks](#)

[Physical Distancing](#)

[Health Screening Guidelines and Expectations](#)

[GCED Student Health Screening](#)

[GCED Staff Health Screening](#)

[GCED Parent and Visitor Health Screening](#)

[Quarantine Guidelines](#)

[Contact Tracing](#)

[Meal Service](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Building Access for Families, Visitors and Renters](#)

[Disinfecting and Cleaning](#)

[Handwashing](#)

Masks

Wearing a mask (face covering) has proven to be an effective strategy in slowing the transmission of COVID-19. It is important to wear a mask in some settings to help limit the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with CDC and MDH recommendations, and per Board of Education approval on August 26, 2021, GCED will implement a mask requirement for all students ages 2 and up, staff and visitors regardless of vaccination status beginning on August 30, 2021 at the River Bluff Education Center and at the Tower View Alternative Learning High School. In general, people do not need to wear masks outdoors. At any point during the course of 2021-22 that masks are a requirement, mask exemptions due to disabling or health related conditions will be considered on a case by case basis through an interactive process with the student or staff member or through the actions of an IEP or 504 team.

Universal masking helps us with the priority of keeping all students in an in person learning environment. The latest guidance has redefined how we identify close contacts to a person with COVID-19. Students and staff within 6 feet of an infected person are

not considered close contacts and won't be required to quarantine if masks were correctly worn by the infected person and the close contact and other mitigation strategies were followed. If the close contact develops symptoms or has a positive COVID-19 test, then recommended isolation or quarantine rules will apply.

As of June 14, 2021, all people are required by the CDC to wear masks on public transportation. **This includes all GCED transportation to and from all schools and programming.**

Physical Distancing

GCED will continue to create space for physical distancing of 3 feet or more to the greatest extent possible.

GCED will keep students and staff in small groups that stay together as much as possible throughout the day, and limit mixing between groups as much as possible in common spaces (during lunch, bathroom breaks, arrival and dismissal, recess).

Health Screening Guidelines and Expectations

Families should conduct a health screening every morning before sending their student to school or the bus stop. School staff will also monitor for symptoms throughout the school day. If your child is exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, do not send them to school, even if they are fully vaccinated. **Report your child's symptoms or exposure to Sheri Johnson, the GCED School Nurse at sjohnson@gced.k12.mn.us or by calling 651-388-4441 x1102.**

GCED Student Health Screening:

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell OR at least 2 of the following: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Answer the following questions each morning before sending your child to school:

1. Did my child recently test positive for COVID-19?
2. Does my child have any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above?
3. Did my child have close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If you answered yes to **any** of the above questions, do not come to school. **Report your child's symptoms or exposure to Sheri Johnson, the GCED School Nurse at sjohnson@gced.k12.mn.us or by calling 651-388-4441 x1102.** Parents/guardians should also keep any siblings/household members home as well and contact their respective schools.

Contact your health care provider to determine what your next steps should be.

GCED Staff Health Screening:

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell OR at least 2 of the following: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Take your temperature every day and answer the following questions each morning before arriving at school:

1. Have I recently tested positive for COVID-19?
2. Do I have a fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell have any two of the of the other COVID-19 symptoms listed above?
3. Have I been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If you answered yes to **any** of the above questions, do not come to school.

Report your symptoms or exposure to Sheri Johnson, the GCED School Nurse at sjohnson@gced.k12.mn.us or by calling 651-388-4441 x1102.

Contact your health care provider to determine what your next steps should be.

GCED Parent and Visitor Health Screening:

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell OR at least 2 of the following: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Take your temperature every day and answer the following questions before arriving at school:

1. Have I recently tested positive for COVID-19?
2. Do I have a fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell have any two of the of the other COVID-19 symptoms listed above?
3. Have I been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If you answered yes to **any** of the above questions, do not come to any school building. Contact the person you were going to meet with to inform them that you will not be coming.

Quarantine Guidelines

GCED uses the [Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth Programs, and Child Care Programs](#). GCED has opted to implement the Minnesota Department of Health shortened quarantine guidelines in the Decision Tree. These guidelines are subject to change. When changes occur, families, staff and visitors will be provided an update. Quarantine letters will be sent to close contacts when there is a positive COVID-19 case and close contacts have been identified.

People who are fully vaccinated (14 or more days after their vaccination series) OR have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and have close contact with someone who has COVID-19 do not need to be quarantined if they do not have any symptoms and meet other conditions. New for the 2021-22 school year, students will not be considered a close contact if both the positive student and the student contact were wearing a well-fitting mask, per the MDH guidelines.

Contact Tracing

GCED will continue contact tracing through the 2021-22 school year. Contact tracing helps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Contact tracing means identifying and talking to people who are infected with COVID-19 and then identifying and talking to all the people they may have infected. Assigned seating will be required in all classrooms and lunch periods for all ages to help with this process.

GCED is required to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Meal Service

Lunch and breakfast will be free for all students for the 2021-22 school year. Individual schools/programs will determine if meals will be served in cafeterias and/or classrooms. Assigned seating will be required during meals.

Transportation

Masks

Bus drivers and K-12 students are required to wear masks on the bus. Bus drivers have student masks available if needed.

Health Screening

Families are responsible for checking their student's symptoms before they go to the bus stop.

Windows

Weather permitting, windows will be open to help increase air circulation.

Building Access for Families, Visitors and Renters

Parents/guardians are welcome inside school buildings (we ask that families limit their visits to 15 minutes when possible). Outside visitors are allowed by appointment only. If a meeting can be scheduled virtually, please consider that option so that we can limit visitors for their safety and the safety of our students and staff.

Activities that bring together large groups of people or activities that do not allow for social distancing, including assemblies, open houses and other indoor gatherings, will be limited. Group events, gatherings and meetings should be held online or outside, weather permitting, to the greatest extent possible. Final determination of gatherings is at the discretion of the Executive Director.

Disinfecting and Cleaning

Using [EPA-approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2](#), custodial staff will significantly increase the wiping down and disinfecting of public spaces and high-touch surfaces across our buildings and throughout the school day. We will also provide access to cleaning materials in each learning space for our teachers and staff so that they can clean and disinfect spaces, as needed.

Handwashing

Handwashing routines will be built into the daily schedule for all students and staff, including before and after meals, using the bathroom, recess, arrival and dismissal. Any use of hand sanitizer by students will be supervised.