



Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools

Back to School Plan

2021-2022

GJCS will implement the following guidelines addressing the local impact and spread of COVID-19 effective July 1, 2021. *Please note that changes to this guidance may occur as a result of future guidance and requirements from the Governor, CDC, Indiana State Department of Health and Dubois County Health Department.*

School Operations

- All students will attend in-person instruction 5 days per week.
- Virtual learning will only be available to students during quarantine due to COVID-19.
- Virtual learning *IS NOT* available for general illness, vacations, etc.
- Students attending virtually due to COVID-19 will be required to log into class/classes via Zoom and utilize Canvas during all assigned school periods to be counted present for attendance purposes.
- Students will be responsible for completing all assignments and assessments on the date assigned by the teacher.
- Students needing technical support should contact the building principal.

Prevention Practices

- Students/staff should self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms daily.
- STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK
 - Students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19.
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Wash hands frequently with hand soap and/or hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs
- Water fountains used for bottle fill only. Students should bring a reusable water bottle.
- School facilities will be cleaned using routine protocols. Disinfectant and paper products will be available in each classroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout each facility.

Masks

- Masks will be optional for all students/staff unless a significant outbreak of COVID-19 occurs within the school or community.

- GJCS will follow IDOE attendance guidelines for student absence due to illness and monitor COVID-19 guidance and recommendations.

Teaching and Learning

- Desks will be separated by 3 feet or to the extent possible and be facing one direction.
- Student cohorts and assigned seating will be used in each classroom.
- Additional instructional supports will be provided to students who are academically and socially/emotionally at-risk.

Transportation

- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized prior to students return.
- Implement standard operating procedures.
- *The use of a face covering will be optional.*
- Drivers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Buses will be aired out when not in use.
- *Students will be assigned seating with siblings and by bus stop.*

Food Service

- Students wash/sanitize hands before and after meal service
- Students will be assigned seating.
- Cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day
- Pre-packaged salads, soups, etc. only.

Health Clinic

- The health clinic will be used to evaluate and assess ill students. Students displaying COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated from other clinic patients.
- All ill students/staff presenting with Covid-19 symptoms will be required to wear a face covering.
- A record of who enters the isolation area will be kept. The room will be disinfected frequently.

COVID-19 Vaccination

- Currently, COVID-19 vaccinations are not part of the required immunizations for school attendance.
- Proof of vaccination is not required.

Illness

- Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms during school will be assessed by the school nurse.
- School nurses will use *nurse medical judgement* to communicate next steps to parents.
- Strict social distancing (6ft) will be required for ill students/staff.
- Students being picked up by parents/guardians will be walked out of the building to their parents.

- Contact your school nurse with any questions regarding student illness.

School Exclusion and Return

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6).

GJCS will monitor CDC guidelines pertaining to student/staff illness, exclusion and quarantine.

Students/staff exhibiting fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea will be excluded from school attendance until one of the following:

- Documentation of an alternative diagnosis (Not COVID-19) is acquired from a healthcare provider and symptoms have improved.
 - Be fever free for 24 hours without the use of any medication
 - Diarrhea – be 24 hours free from diarrhea
 - Vomiting – Able to eat at least 2 solid meals

OR

- Documentation of a Negative COVID-19 test is provided.

Students/staff testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days starting from the onset of symptoms or date of the positive COVID-19 test draw.

Close Contacts

A close contact is anyone within 3 feet of a confirmed positive COVID-19 person for 15 minutes or more. These individuals are required to quarantine per the CDC/ISDH.

- Students/staff identified as a close contact to a confirmed positive COVID-19 person will be required to quarantine.
- Students/staff may return to school on Day 8 with a negative BinaxNOW rapid test result (given by GJCS nurses) OR on Day 11 without a COVID-19 test. Individuals must remain symptom free through day 14 of exposure.
- Students/staff who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are not required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free. Information regarding vaccination status will not be officially collected. Proof of vaccination status is voluntary.
- Students/staff who have documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past three months will not be required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free.
- Students/staff who show proof of antibodies for COVID-19 through lab testing are not required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free.