

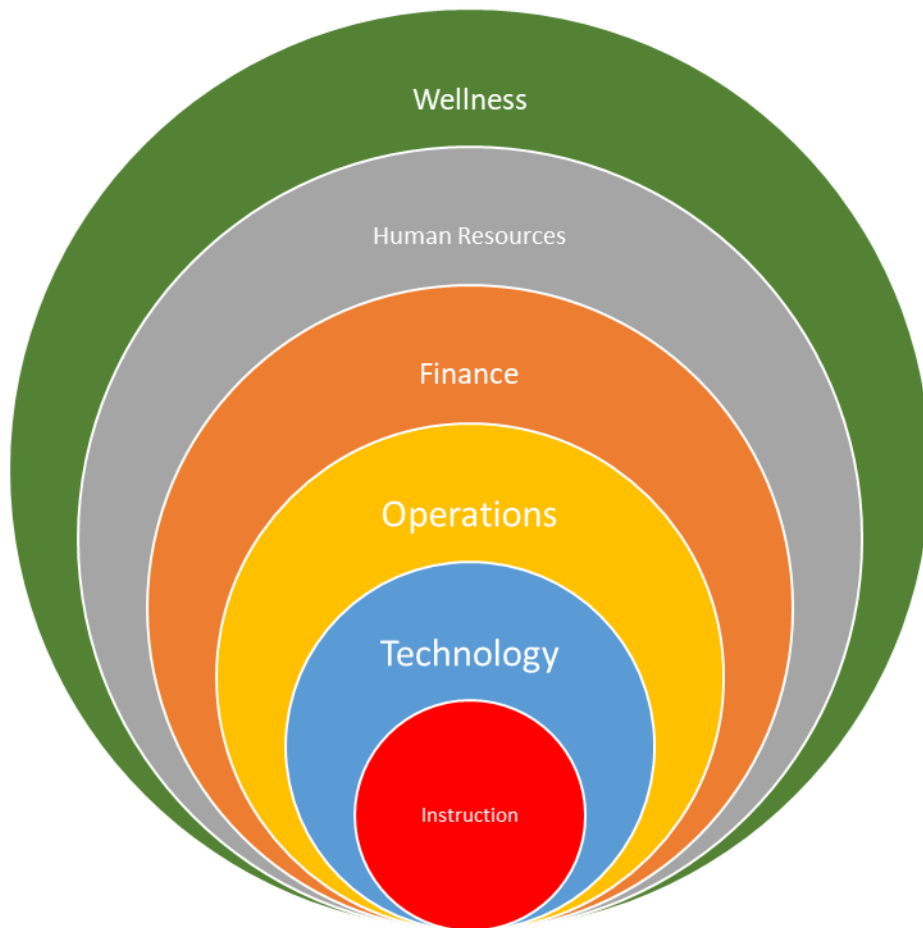


2021

# Return to School Plan

Goreville Community Unit School District #1 has revised its Return to School plan for the 2021 – 2022 school year based on current CDC recommendations and those regulations as maintained by the IDPH and the Illinois State Board of Education.

There is still general consensus that there are six areas of need when attending school during a health crisis. These areas are **Wellness, Human Resources, Technology, Instruction, Operations,** and **Finance**. The following document outlines the details of this plan for each of the six areas.



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## **I. Wellness**

The following plan was developed with guidance from the CDC, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. This plan is subject to change based on school community, and county positivity numbers and after consultation with local public health officials. Modifications to this plan could include increased mitigation measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to requiring all individuals to wear a mask in the school building, increasing social distancing and other appropriate mitigation measures.

### **Staff & Student Protection Plan**

Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families. The following plan has been developed with that in mind. While our plan specifies guidelines for our staff, students, and buildings to follow, everyone's health and safety is dependent on each individual. Each staff member should ensure their own health and safety by adhering to these guidelines and reporting any issues or safety concerns to their building principal. Each of us will play a role in our collective safety. Every effort should be made to ensure the health and safety of staff and students, including quarantine and a nurse's space within each building as feasible.

#### **Social Distancing**

Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 students and staff are still encouraged to maintain social distancing (3-6 feet separation) throughout the school day when possible. Students and staff should also be encouraged to abstain from physical contact, such as handshakes, high fives, and hugs. Signage reminding staff, visitors and students to maintain social distancing is placed at all entrances, in classrooms and throughout other common areas.

#### **Face Coverings and P.P.E.**

Face coverings and other PPE is optional for all students and staff. The CDC guidance recommends that masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. If an individual chooses to wear a mask, individuals within school buildings are to properly wear a nose and mouth covering (mask or face shield).

#### **Hand Hygiene**

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing is key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff members must clean hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. Staff should avoid touching their mouth, eyes or nose as much as possible. Staff and students should hand sanitize upon entering the classroom each and every time. Each building will place signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas. If assisting a student requires close contact, hand washing or sanitizing should be done before and after contact with students.

#### **Training**

Hand hygiene and social distancing will be included in our curriculum to help educate our students on the importance of proper hand hygiene and personal safety.

### **Health Screenings**

Only students and staff who do not have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 should report for in-person learning. In order to attend school, all students must be screened by their parents for symptoms of COVID-19 and other criteria. All staff must also screen themselves for this criteria prior to reporting to work. By attending school, all students and staff are certifying that they meet the following criteria:

1. They do not have a temperature over 100.4F.
2. They are not taking fever-reducing medicines, such as those that contain aspirin, ibuprofen or acetaminophen, in order to reduce his/her fever.
3. They have not been directed to self-quarantine by a health care provider.
4. They have not been directed to self-quarantine by the County or State Department of Public Health.
5. They do not have any of the following symptoms:
  - Chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

Students and staff who exhibit symptoms or do not otherwise meet the above criteria will not be allowed into the school building. If a student does not meet this criteria, parents should notify the school of the child's absence.

Any student or staff member who begins to exhibit a high fever associated with COVID-19 like symptoms while at school should report to the nurse. Students will wear a face covering and will remain in the quarantine area until a parent or guardian picks the student up or alternative transportation home is arranged. Staff who exhibit symptoms while at school will remain in the quarantine area until they are able to leave.

Staff who have had contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 should notify their building principal or supervisor immediately.

Students who are suspected to have COVID-19, whether they are tested or not, should follow the CDC and IDPH guidelines for self-monitoring and self-quarantine.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19, with COVID-19 symptoms or who have had close contact with a person infected with COVID-19 will be excluded from school until it is safe to return under the CDC and IDPH guidelines. Fully vaccinated students who have had close contact with a person infected with COVID-19 are not required to be excluded from school if they do not have symptoms. Please see the COVID-19 Return to School Flowchart attached as Exhibit A.

**Visitor and Vendor Policy**

To the greatest extent possible, visitors should be restricted to authorized personnel only or emergency situations.

**Communication Plan**

Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 will coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and any possible COVID-19 exposure.

- This communication to the school community will align with the communication plan in the school's emergency operations plan.
- In such a circumstance, Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 will maintain confidentiality of the student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
- Families will be notified of the planned duration of the closure and the anticipated return to in-person learning

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 custodial staff will follow the established cleaning procedures for building cleaning and disinfection.

- Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces. Cleaning staff should use disinfectants that are EPA-approved for COVID-19.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

### **School Dismissal**

Temporarily dismissing PK-12 schools is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities. The need to extend school closures will be made in collaboration with the Southern Seven Health Department.

- School dismissals and event cancellations may be extended if advised by local health officials. The nature of these actions (e.g., geographic scope, duration) may change as the local outbreak situation evolves.
- During school dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open: a) allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and b) allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts. Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school will be made in collaboration with the Southern Seven Health Department.
- Administrators should seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

## **II. Human Resources**

### **Staff Return Plan**

The District will make every effort to follow all CDC, IDPH, and SSHD guidelines regarding district employees who fall under one or more of the “High-Risk” categories for susceptibility to COVID-19 as displayed in the Table below:

- People 65 years and older
- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- People with liver disease
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)

An employee’s request for a special accommodation due to a medical condition (i.e. to request for all students to wear masks in their classroom) has to be sent to the District Office for review and consideration in the same way that time off requests are made in writing.

## **III. Technology**

Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 is a 1:1 school meaning that every child will be issued a device while at school and may take the device home in case of a COVID-19 related closure.

## **IV. Instruction**

### **Required Physicals**

Traditionally, the State of Illinois has mandated that these be submitted no later than October 15th. Although we will follow the dates set by the State of Illinois, we encourage you to obtain these requirements at the earliest possible date.

### **Safety Education for Students**

Students will be receiving grade level appropriate education and guidance regarding all new guidelines during the first two (2) weeks of school. Each school will develop a plan for providing our students with building specific safety measures to follow and why these measures are important.

### **Social and Emotional Learning**

SEL supports will be provided for our students and staff. A process to identify students and staff who maybe experiencing stress or trauma related to COVID-19 will be developed. We will continue to implement SEL curriculum with the addition of an intentional focus on student’s emotional health which



may be impacted by COVID-19. Other SEL supports will be developed to add supports to our students as needed.

### **Driver's Education Behind-the-Wheel**

In order to provide behind-the-wheel training to students in driver's education in compliance with all Secretary of State and IDPH safety requirements, the following procedures must be followed:

- Only two students and one instructor per vehicle
- Face coverings must be worn, unless medically contraindicated
- Eating and drink are prohibited in the vehicle
- Windows must be open whenever possible
- Do not make any unnecessary stops during the training
- Complete hand hygiene with soap & water or hand sanitizer, before and after driving
- Clean and disinfect the steering wheel, door handles, seatbelt fastener, controls/dials, keys, etc. in between each behind-the-wheel session
- Conduct regular routine cleaning and disinfecting of the seats

### **Physical Education, Gymnasiums, and Locker Rooms**

Physical activity can support students' overall health and help reduce stress and anxiety. Any shared equipment will be cleaned between each use and disinfected at the end of each class. Fitness centers with equipment such as treadmills, elliptical, stationary bicycles, weights, etc., shall be cleaned and sanitized before and after each class. Focus on frequently touched surfaces such as keypads, hand weights, handles, etc. Students and staff should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer at the start and end of each class period or when hands are visibly dirty. Students should perform hand hygiene after the use of each piece of equipment.

### **Special Needs**

Goreville C.U.S.D. #1 will develop plans and procedures to address the various unique challenges within the Individualized Education Plan process.

### **Remote Learning and Homebound Instruction**

In accordance with the declaration of the Illinois State Board of Education, remote learning is only required to be provided to students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, *only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health*. If a student does not meet the above criteria, but requests remote learning due to a medical condition, the request for remote learning will be evaluated under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If the student has a qualifying medical condition, the student may be provided homebound instruction. Remote Learning and/or Homebound instruction may consist of working with a substitute teacher or paraprofessional to provide lessons under the guidance of the classroom teacher.

## **V. Operations**

### **Food Services**

The Cafeteria Staff will design a meal plan that follows state guidelines and according to USDA standards.

### **Transportation**

Durham Transportation has developed several safety protocols to keep our staff and students safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students, drivers and monitors must wear approved and appropriate PPE and perform regular hand hygiene. Drivers and monitors are subject to the same health screenings as all other employees, as described in Section I.

### **School Bus Sanitation**

The transportation sanitation plan will include daily disinfection of our facilities and school bus fleet. Our facilities will be cleaned daily with emphasis on high touch surfaces and restrooms. Schools buses will be disinfected daily at the end of routes and allowed to sit overnight for maximum disinfectant dwell time.

### **Social Distancing During Transport**

Following the ISBE and CDC guidelines, school buses should modify seating layouts and create distance between children on school buses to the greatest extent possible. All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering, unless medically contraindicated.

### **Facilities**

All custodial/maintenance staff will be trained on the return to school guidelines, where applicable. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts using certified EPA products in both low/high contact areas including:

- Desktops
- Door handles
- Countertops
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Drinking fountains
- Restroom fixtures

Building custodians and cleaning personnel will conduct daily cleaning and disinfection. An EPA approved cleaner will be used for disinfection along with our standard cleaning protocols. All frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs, desktops/tabletops, countertops, light switches, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, phones, toys, cubbies/coat and backpack areas, sinks and faucets) will be cleaned on a regular basis. Restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and common areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Soft surfaces such as carpets and rugs will be disinfected daily. Items such as cloth toys or other cloth material items that cannot be disinfected should not be used.

Building and Grounds may be adjusting personnel schedules to meet the return to school needs. Cleaning schedules will be created and implemented for all facilities and equipment. Extra sanitation efforts will occur during in-class learning which will address high traffic/common areas.

High Traffic Areas

- Hallways
- Stairwells
- Foyers
- Entry ways
- Restrooms
- Main offices

Low Traffic Areas

- Gym
- Locker Rooms
- Weight Rooms
- Cafeteria
- Auditorium
- Playground equipment

Each week, a detailed sanitation will occur throughout the facility with extensive deep cleaning of restrooms and other common areas. Cleaning and buffing of areas, ground operations and Regional Office of Education compliance duties will be occurring on those all virtual remote learning days.

Sanitation, hygiene and PPE supplies will be ordered and stockpiled for employee access.

**VI. Finance**

Due to the additional requirements, the following additional expenses may occur:

- Gloves and other specialized PPE for special needs applications
- Disinfectant and cleaning supplies
- Disinfectant Wipes