

GARDEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDE

Belief Statement:

We at Garden County Public Schools believe in doing all we can to provide students with a quality learning experience regardless of the circumstance. We believe our top priority is to keep students and staff safe. We believe that “Being in School” is the best way to learn and grow through academic material and social interactions.

The Panhandle Health Unified Command has criteria in place that determines what code level Garden County Public Schools will reside in regards to safety. The dial indicates the current Covid-19 threat. This will be addressed every week so we ask that parents and the community to remain flexible at all times. This Dial can be found by clicking [HERE](#). The Risk Dial will be updated every Tuesday for the following week. This means unless there is an emergency we will remain in the same school plan all week and not change until the next Monday. As we experience the COVID-19 pandemic, let's counter it with a remedy of positivity to one another. We can get through this together with kindness and support.

- **Be Supportive – Support your family, friends, and neighbors when possible.**
- **Be Careful – Carefully practice the important prevention strategies to safeguard you and your loved ones against COVID-19.**
- **Be Alert – Watch for negative social media and individual's being bullied and take a stand against it with important facts and knowledge.**
- **Be Kind – Kindness always prevails as we traverse uncertain and fearful times.**

Garden County Public Schools has collaborated with health officials, the school board, and administration in coming up with the best plan possible for Garden County. Please note that while this plan is set for today, changes can be made based on new information and developments. The plan below is a breakdown of the guidelines we will adhere to in an attempt to keep all students and staff safe. The plan will be located on the Garden County Public Schools website.

Garden County Public Schools	Mild	Mild-Moderate	Moderate-High	High-Severe
Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) Dial	<u>Green or Low to Mid-Yellow on PPHD dial</u>	<u>Mid to upper Yellow on PPHD Dial</u>	<u>Orange on PPHD Level</u>	<u>Red on PPHD Dial</u> LEARN FROM HOME
Protocols	Normal School with enhanced distancing protocols in the classrooms with 100% of students in school	Classroom or Teacher Rotation K-12: Classes will resume as normal due to space with enhanced distancing protocols 100% of students in school	Classroom or Teacher Rotation K-12: Classes will resume as normal due to space with enhanced distancing protocols 100% of students in school Masks on all employees and students	Learn From Home
Hand Washing	Sanitise in and Sanitise out, Elementary Students will have increased frequency/scheduled times throughout the day for hand washing. Secondary Students will get daily announcements to	Same plan as green	Same plan as green	Learn From Home

	wash their hands.			
Disinfecting	<p>Each building will be disinfected every night using the EvaClean Infection Prevention System.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be in every classroom, various locations in the building and office for use.</p>	Same plan as green	Same plan as green	Learn From Home
Pre-Screening students	Parents are encouraged to check their child's physical condition before school. Temperature will be checked at the door.	Same plan as green	Same plan as green	Learn From Home
Water Fountains	No mouth drinking from water fountains. Students should bring <u>clear bottles</u> of water and may use the water bottle filling stations to fill their bottle.	Same plan as green	Same plan as green	Learn from Home
Visitors at School	Visitors are restricted unless absolutely necessary. Visitors should call ahead of	Same plan as green	Same plan as green	Learn from Home

	<p>time and will be required to wear a mask.</p> <p>Families are restricted from visiting the school to only activities required by policy or law. For all students, all cases (i.e. a student has an appointment, is ill, or needs to leave early) parents will call when they arrive at the building and the student will be released.</p> <p>This excludes scenarios such as, discipline related occurrences and student meetings / conferences, IEP's, MDT's. (parents are allowed to be in the building at these times)</p>			
Masks	Masks are recommended but not required.	Masks recommended, but not required. If School has a positive case in the building	Masks are required. There will be masks breaks during times the students are	Learn from Home

	<p>Each Building will have desk shields.</p> <p>Each Building will have desk shields</p>	<p>Masks will be mandated. Each Building will have desk shields. The Board of Education can mandate masks for the whole district at any time.</p>	<p>appropriately physically distanced apart.</p> <p>Each Building will have desk shields</p>	
Attendance (students)	<p>Covid positive students and students who have to quarantine by orders of PPHD are excused and will not count on truancy count. All others who miss school is a normal absence following school policy.</p>	<p>Covid positive students and students who have to quarantine by orders of PPHD are excused and will not count on truancy count. All others who miss school is a normal absence following school policy.</p>	<p>Covid positive students and students who have to quarantine by orders of PPHD are excused and will not count on truancy count. All others who miss school is a normal absence following school policy.</p>	<p>Report to zoom rooms when reported attendance will be reported.</p>
Bussing	<p>Bussing will occur for students that live in the country and by law the school is required to transport to school. Temp check before entering the bus, and there will be assigned seats.</p> <p>Parents will need to get their children to school.</p>	<p>Same plan as green.</p>	<p>Same plan as green.</p>	<p>Learn from Home</p>

Temperature Checks	We will do our best to temperature check students when they enter the building.	We will do our best to temperature check students when they enter the building.	We will do our best to temperature check students when they enter the building.	Learn from Home
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Below are some frequently asked questions regarding scenarios that may arise for you during the school year.

What happens when a student or teacher tests positive for Covid-19?

- *GCPS will be notified by the PPHD*
- *PPHD will lead all contact tracing working closely with GCS staff.*
- *Students and staff with direct contact will follow the direction of self-quarantine given to them by the PPHD.*
- *Quarantined Teachers and Students will move to “learn from home” until the quarantine is over*
- *All families and staff will be notified when there is a positive case in their building and given instructions for next steps as directed by PPHD.*
- *It is possible that a classroom, a school or only a few students may be placed in quarantine.*

Will my child’s attendance be excused if they test positive for Covid-19?

- **Yes**

Will there be an after school?

- **Yes, only if we are in school as person to person.**

Will my child still be able to have breakfast at school?

- **Yes. All schools will still provide breakfast with enhanced physical distancing and cleaning protocols.**

Is there an online option for students?

- **Our plan is to have kids in school so we don’t have an online option.**

What if I don’t feel comfortable sending my child to school?

- **Home School through NDE**

What happens if a student has a fever at school?

- All school employees will be on “heightened awareness” of students showing signs of illness. If a student is sent home due to a fever they will be required to be feverless for at least 24 hours before returning to school. If they are sent home with possible COVID-19 symptoms they will follow the readmittance to school guidance by PPHD.

What color should we expect to be on August 13th and August 20th for students' first day of school?

- Based on the criteria the PPHD uses we expect to start school in the green but that can change quickly.

Are visitors allowed at school?

- Pre-Arranged visits are preferred. CALL FIRST!
- Visitors are required to wear a mask.
- Disinfectants will be available for visitors as they enter the office.
- Please take care of as much as possible with a phone call.
- Visits required by law will take place.

Who decides on situations that require students or staff to quarantine?

- The Panhandle Public Health District determines who is required to quarantine through contact tracing. Quarantine is 14 days from the last exposure.
- They have said that it is possible that students/staff that have masks on are less likely to quarantine.

What if my child has asthma or any other health issues that makes it hard to wear a mask?

- Call the school and set up a meeting to discuss the situation
- Most likely parents would just show medical documentation and a plan would be put in place for less mask wearing

Why did we not put the plan out sooner?

- Because things continue to change from week to week. We were afraid to put out information too soon then have to change.

How can parents help?

- The best we can ask is that you are flexible and understanding. This is a tough situation and we are doing our best but I am sure there will be adjustments.
- Parents can purchase disinfecting wipes or bottles for their child’s classroom. If parents are unable to purchase items please don’t feel obligated.