

2022-2023 Gettysburg School District COVID-19 Operational Plan

Approved August 10, 2022

1. **Assumption of Risk**- The novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly through person-to-person contact.
 - A. The Gettysburg School District has put in place preventative measures to reduce or slow the spread of COVID-19; however, the District cannot guarantee that individuals will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, school attendance could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.
 - B. The mitigation planning and strategies laid out in this operational plan are intended to be responsible, reasonable, and realistic strategies that can be implemented daily in the school.

2. **Mitigation Efforts** - *To limit close contact scenarios and slow the spread of COVID-19 at school:*
 - A. Campus facilities are cleaned on a regular basis and maintained to provide our staff and students with a safe, healthy environment to the best of our ability.
 - B. Promote healthy hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette. Allow optional mask wearing, promote social distancing where practical, encourage home screening before school and expect people with symptoms/illness to stay home. Consult medical professionals if appropriate.
 - C. The District supports, but does not require, eligible members of the school community in getting the vaccination. *Face coverings are also recommended, but not required.*
 - D. Appropriate social, emotional and mental health needs will be available for staff upon request.
 - E. Classroom and Special Education accommodations and modifications will be provided to the fullest extent possible, with student health and safety as a priority at all times.

3. **Positive Cases** - *Within the building:*
 - A. Report any COVID-19 related symptoms immediately, and if symptomatic the student will be required to leave school, quarantine and consult with their medical provider about being tested for COVID-19.
 - B. When students are required to be out of school for self-isolation they will:
 1. Not be eligible to participate in activities unless there is a virtual opportunity.
 2. Make contact and arrangements with each teacher to meet virtually and/or make up missed work.
 3. Any student required to be out of school can participate in school lunches, which will be sack-style. Parents must contact school on by 8:30 on Monday morning for that week.
 4. Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's social, emotional, and mental health. The school will provide counseling services upon request.

4. COVID Testing - Exclusion from school:

- A. Whenever a student has been identified as having signs/symptoms of COVID an at-home test is recommended, or they can be tested by their health care professional. Students will be required to stay home until their test results come back.
 - 1. **Positive Result:** Stay home 5 days from the day of testing (day 0); return fever free without medication for 24 hours.
 - 2. **Negative Result:** Stay home until fever free without medication for 24 hours.

5. School Instruction Phases:

- A. **Phase 1-** Open for live attendance following the mitigation processes listed above. The district will work to keep school open for as much on-site attendance as possible.
- B. **Phase 2-** Remote learning when the school building is closed to on-site student attendance.
- C. The school district may move to remote learning for one of the following:
(The number of closure days and classes required to remote learn will depend upon circumstances.)
 - 1. Due to a state or federal mandate.
 - 2. If there were no longer enough staff members in the building to provide direct instruction due to their own exposure to COVID. When adequate staffing is available the district would return to on-site attendance for all students.
 - 3. Administrative discretion deemed necessary in extreme circumstances.
- D. All Gettysburg Staff members have essential employee status per board action.
- E. Our ICU program provides extra support to ensure minimal learning loss for any absence.

6. SDHSAA Guidelines for return to play protocols with COVID-19: Students that participate in SDHSAA sponsored are subject to the return to play/participating protocols set forth by the SDHSAA policies. These protocols may exceed the self-isolation and quarantine recommended guidelines of the SD Department of Education and the SD Department of Health.

Further resources and guidance on Covid-19 related matters may also be found at:

- 1. <https://doh.sd.gov/> (SD Dept. of Health)
- 2. <https://www.cdc.gov/> (US Center for Disease Control)
- 3. This plan will be reviewed within every 6 months per DOE requirement.
 - a. December 2022
 - b. June 2023
 - c. December 2023
 - d. June 2024
- 4. Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening, testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening, testing).
- 5. Contact tracing in conjunction with state and local entities will not be utilized until mandated.
- 6. This document is available online as well as each building. Translation services are available through each administrative office. Please contact Superintendent Amber Mikkelsen with questions.