



COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN
GREENBRIER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

UPDATED AUGUST 2021

LAYERED PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Greenbrier Community School will implement protocols and practices to prioritize the health and safety of our students, their families, and our faculty and staff to mitigate disease transmission and maintain a healthy environment. We will adhere to health and safety protocols in accordance with the West Virginia Department of Health's layered approach of multiple prevention strategies, determining changes to layers as appropriate. These strategies and any changes will be informed by levels of community transmission, local vaccine coverage, and the level of impact to the School.

Consistent and Correct Use of Masks: All students, faculty, staff, parents, and visitors must wear a mask while inside the school.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette: Students and staff will continue to practice correct handwashing, and hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school.

Clean and maintain healthy facilities: Greenbrier Community School will continue to perform regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces.

Staying home when sick and getting tested: Students and faculty who have symptoms of infectious illness should stay home from school and see a health care provider for testing and care.

Contact tracing: The School will continue to work closely with the Greenbrier County Health Department to determine appropriate action steps should a student or faculty member be diagnosed with COVID-19.

In addition to these prevention strategies, 100% of our faculty is fully vaccinated.

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

To maintain a safe and healthy school environment, we ask for the full cooperation and support of every person in our GCS family — students, parents, faculty, and staff. This commitment is integral to protect one another and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the school community and the community at large.

We encourage everyone to continue to be vigilant during your time out of school and to continue to consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for travel and other safety measures.

At home, families are encouraged to teach and reinforce safety protocols with their children.

- Encourage frequent hand washing
- Practice coughing and sneezing into elbows.
- Practice wearing face coverings
- Teach healthy hygiene practices.
- Continue regular doctor visits and well-child appointments.
- Keep immunizations and physicals current.

MASK POLICY

GCS is following the current recommendation of the CDC regarding mask wearing. Therefore, faculty, staff, students, parents, and any visitors must wear face coverings while indoors.

Exceptions include

- when eating indoors
- when vaccinated adults are the only people in the building.

Faculty will continue to encourage student mask breaks when outdoors and when distancing can be maintained. Everyone in our community is invited to wear a mask at any time regardless of the policy.

In addition to the mask that a child comes to school with each day, parents are asked to provide 4 additional labeled, washable masks for their child in a sealed 'ziploc' bag labeled with the child's name for storage with their teacher. We are also asking each student bring a box of disposable masks to keep in their cubby as backup.

Approved Mask Types

- Disposable surgical masks
- Cloth masks with at least two-layers

Not Approved

- Gaiters
- Bandanas
- Masks with outflow valves

SPACE & PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Greenbrier Community School's physical spaces and teaching approach have always set it apart from other schools. These differences uniquely position us to continue to deliver an exceptional child-centered education while meeting the recommendations for maintaining a safe learning environment more effectively than traditionally structured programs. We will continue to take advantage of our diverse learning environments, and faculty will continue to make use of outdoor spaces as appropriate.

All students will be in person for the 2021 - 2022 school year, and our low student/teacher ratios allow students and faculty the space to distance as needed.

STAYING HOME WHEN SICK AND GETTING TESTED

The most important thing we can do for one another as a community is to stay home when we are feeling ill. GCS will provide grace, flexibility, and support to any faculty, student, or staff member who is feeling ill with symptoms of an infectious illness. In return, the School requests that those feeling ill see a health care provider in order to receive proper testing and/or care.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever (>100.4°F) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (more than usual)
- Muscles or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congested or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Onset of Symptoms at Home

If your child is experiencing new and unusual symptoms

- Stay home.
- Notify the school.
- Visit a healthcare provider to determine if testing is needed and/or to receive an alternate diagnosis.

Onset of Symptoms at School

Should a child display any symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the School will

- Evaluate symptoms.
 - If the symptoms are new and unusual for the child, we will
 - Separate the child from others.
 - Send the child home without delay.
 - If there is another explanation for symptoms (e.g. known symptoms), we will
 - Take the child's temperature
- If the child does not have a fever and has not been a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they may resume normal activities when able.
- If the child does have a fever, we will
 - Separate from others.
 - Send the child home without delay.
 - Require that the child visit a healthcare provider to determine if testing is needed and/or to receive an alternate diagnosis.

School Response to Confirmed COVID-19 Diagnosis

Following West Virginia Department of Health guidelines, the school will notify public health officials of any positive test and begin the process of notifying close contacts of the ill person.

A person with a confirmed case - along with siblings, household members, and close contacts - will be excluded from school until they meet the guidelines for returning. The CDC defines close contacts as being within six (6) feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes with the following exception: In indoor K-12 settings, a student who is within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students are wearing masks and the school has other prevention strategies in place.

RETURN TO CAMPUS:

For not fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff

Return to campus after exclusion is possible with one of the following strategies:

Alternate Diagnosis Strategy

1. An alternative diagnosis has been made by a healthcare provider who certifies that you may return to school; and
2. At least 24 hours have passed since any fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication; and
3. Symptoms have improved.

Time-based Strategy (if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 and never had any symptoms)

1. At least 10 days since the date of your first positive diagnostic COVID-19 test; and
2. You continue to have no symptoms since the test

Symptom-based Strategy (if someone has COVID-19 symptoms and was directed to stay home)

1. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
2. At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; and
3. Other symptoms have improved.

If you are a close contact and receive a positive test, follow the Time-based Strategy.

For fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff

For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson [J&J]/Janssen). There is currently no post-vaccination time limit on fully vaccinated status.

The CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people

- Get tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until a negative test result.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Isolate if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

These criteria are consistent with guidance from the CDC and will be updated as required.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Large Gatherings

The School continues to closely monitor changes to guidance by the Greenbrier County Health Department. We will follow best practices for any large gatherings that we may have during the school year and will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our community members.

Field Trips

The School is allowing field trips on a case-by-case basis. Students and teachers will follow the most up-to-date guidelines for health and safety as offered by the GCHD and CDC. For each field trip, the teacher will send home information and request chaperones. A permission form will then be sent home. Parents must sign the form approving the student's participation. The permission form will be sent home as far in advance as possible.

EARLY EDUCATION - SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to the all-school mitigation elements, we are following the guidance of our early childhood professional organizations (NAEYC) and the government (West Virginia Department of Education) to employ best practices for preschool age children.

The following are some of the elements that we are implementing to address mitigation:

- Encouraging teachers to utilize outdoor spaces in all but the most intemperate circumstances. Please ensure your child is properly dressed for outdoor activities.
- Reduce contact when moving about campus:

Physical Distancing with Preschoolers

The conventional wisdom among early childhood professionals is that physical distancing is not a real possibility for preschoolers. (That is unless it is done under restraint and threat, which, of course, we would find not only unacceptable but harmful in itself.) However, by layering other prevention strategies, we will continue to keep our preschoolers safe in a developmentally appropriate way.

Comforting Children

We recognize that most if not all preschool children will need comfort at some point in their classroom experience. There are several ways teachers can accomplish this and reduce risk while doing so.

If a child needs to be held, a teacher can hold their head above the child's with their face averted. With adults and children breathing at different heights, and masked of course, the exchange of air particles is diminished.