

2022 RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PLAN



Prepared for the Students, Parents, and Staff of
Greenfield-Central Community School Corporation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Introduction](#)

[Guiding Principles](#)

[Personal Health and Safety](#)

[Masks](#)

[Vaccinations](#)

[Self-Screening](#)

[Positive COVID-19 Test](#)

[Contact Tracing and Exclusion from School](#)

[Clinic Protocol](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Food Service](#)

[Cleaning Procedures](#)

[Teaching and Learning](#)

[Overall Expectations](#)

[Classroom Set-up and Considerations](#)

[Onsite Considerations](#)

[A Word of Caution](#)

Introduction

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the reestablishment of school procedures following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2021-2022 school year. Our goal is for employees, students, and families to be safe and to reduce the impact of lingering COVID-19 conditions upon returning to our schools.

The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Family and Social Service Administration (FSSA), and the Hancock County Health Department. Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC, WHO, and other pertinent applicable federal, state and local agencies. **As circumstances and guidelines from the health organizations referenced above change, the guidance in this document may change.** We will continue to monitor local and regional COVID-19 data and guidance, collaborate with area schools and our local health department, and adjust our plan accordingly.

Guiding Principles

We have prioritized our decisions along the following guidelines:

1. Follow the health and safety protocols as directed by the CDC, ISDH, and the Hancock County Health Department, while being cognizant that safety protocols should not be so extensive as to damage the growth of the whole child (particularly socially and emotionally).
2. Commit to creating a plan that honors the growth of the whole child - Maintain focus on the academic, social, and emotional needs of students
3. Maintain the ability to be flexible in order to efficiently respond to the dynamics of COVID-19 and for teachers to excel professionally while being mindful of teachers' wellness needs.

Personal Health and Safety

The COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES are based upon guidance from the Hancock County Health Department, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Masks

To date, schools are able to exercise local control regarding the mask requirement. We will continue to seek and follow the guidance of health professionals and organizations to assist in

this decision-making process. Accordingly, we will not require or recommend a mask for students, staff, or visitors. Those who choose to wear a mask may do so.

Vaccinations

The decision to receive a vaccination for COVID-19 remains a personal choice. It is not a requirement for school attendance.

- Immunizations--other than the COVID-19 vaccine--are expected to be up to date the first day of school. If a student is non-compliant with immunizations as stated by the guidelines set forth by the Indiana State Department of Health, the student will be excluded from attendance. Immunizations are expected to be current for students whether they are attending school in person or virtually.

Self-Screening

- Students and staff should self-screen prior to school or extracurricular activities.
- Symptoms for Consideration for exclusion from school:
 - Fever or chills (temperature greater than 99.9)
 - Sore throat
 - Cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing (especially new onset, uncontrolled cough)
 - Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, or abdominal pain
 - Headache (particularly new onset of severe headache, especially with fever)
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Staff/student must be fever/vomit/diarrhea free for 24 hours and 24 hours with other symptoms improving in order to return to work/school.
- In order to encourage students to stay home when they are ill, awards and incentives for perfect attendance will be discontinued for the -2022-2023 school year.

The above guidelines, established by the Indiana State Department of Health, regarding returning to school after an illness are subject to change. The most current guidelines from the ISDH can be found here: [ISDH COVID-19 Return to School Guidance](#).

Positive COVID-19 Test

- If staff/student tests positive for COVID-19, they must remain at home in isolation for 5 days after the first symptom(s) appear AND symptoms improving AND 24 hours free of vomiting, diarrhea, or fever, without the use of medication.
- Positive covid cases should be reported to the GC Health Services department via phone call or email to health@gcsc.k12.in.us.

Contact Tracing and Exclusion from School

- The guidance issued by the Indiana Department of Health in February 2022 states that contact tracing and quarantining in schools is no longer recommended.

Clinic Protocol

- Clinic staff may wear masks and gloves when providing care in the clinic.
- Clinic staff will wear scrubs and closed toed shoes while working in a clinic.
- Clinic personnel will be provided education from the corporation nurse regarding the decision making process for sending students/staff home. This guidance is subject to change, but will incorporate current recommendations as established by the ISDH via the [COVID-19 Screening Decision Tree](#).
- Staff will not be seen in the clinic for routine care. If a staff member feels as if they are ill, they should report this to their supervisor and leave the building as soon as possible. (Coverage for the teacher should be handled via normal emergency leave procedure.) They should not report to the clinic for temperature checks or other care unless medical support is vital to their well being.
- The corporation nurse will develop guidelines for health assistants to use for daily operations of the clinic.
- Establish guidelines that reduce unnecessary visits to the school clinic. Educate teaching staff on following established protocol.

Transportation

Per guidance from the CDC, masks are no longer required on school buses.

a.

Food Service

1. Food service personnel will not be required to wear a mask. Those who choose to wear a mask may do so.
2. All meals will be served in the cafeteria.
 - a. Routine cleaning will continue as normal. Serving lines, dining room tables, and other common touch spaces will be cleaned between meal groups and as needed throughout service.
 - b. Touch-free bottle fillers will be accessible to all students and staff.
 - c. Hand sanitizer available in each dining room for student and staff use.
 - d. Food products from home for individual student lunches are allowed but students are not to share food from home.

- e. Share tables will be open in all dining rooms during meals to continue to support and meet nutritional needs of students and reduce waste. All children will have access to the share tables.
3. Payment Options
 - a. Families should use online payment options.
 - b. Cash/check payments can be given to the cashier in the cafeteria or the student's teacher.
4. Visitor policy will follow each building's active procedure allowing guests.

Cleaning Procedures

1. Routine cleaning will continue as normal. Periodic and targeted fogging will be conducted.
2. Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces (door handles, locker handles, etc) will occur during the school day
3. Frequent high touch surface cleaning should occur throughout the day with deep cleaning done by custodial staff at the end of each school day.
4. Water fountains will continue to be closed. Water filling stations will be available once a safe filling procedure is established. Students are permitted to bring their own water bottles from home and are encouraged to do so.

Teaching and Learning

Overall Expectations

Teachers should work within their PLC to prioritize standards, determine expected level of mastery, and create short diagnostic assessments that will inform their instruction. A focus on first, best instruction for each student will accelerate each student's learning.

Classroom Set-up and Considerations

- Teachers can determine how to set up their classroom seating arrangements for the school year, based on what is best for students' social, emotional, and academic needs. This includes the ability to utilize collaborative practices and small group instruction within the classroom.
- Shared materials (manipulatives): Teachers may have students share materials. Best practice would indicate that students wash their hands or use hand sanitizer prior to and immediately after handling these materials. Limiting certain manipulative sets to smaller groups of students (by color coding, for example) is a safe practice.

- Devices should not be shared between learners. All devices can be cleaned using a disinfectant wipe.
- All soft/porous materials (pillows, soft seating) must be removed from the classroom.

Onsite Considerations

- Some schools may make adjustments to arrival and dismissal protocols: Students may report directly to classrooms while others will be grouped in their cohorts.
 - Prioritize push-in services in place of pull-out services when feasible
 - Playgrounds will be open.
- In some schools, lockers will be assigned and used, though their use will be more limited than in previous years.

A Word of Caution

These plans and procedures are fluid and are likely to change as our environment changes and we receive additional guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the Indiana State Department of Health. We seek our community's patience and flexibility as we work to educate our students in these unusual times.