

North Gibson School Corporation

In-Person Learning Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

North Gibson School Corporation has developed a plan for IN-PERSON learning for the start of school on Aug. 10, 2021. The following social distancing and prevention practices will be in place to help ensure a safe return to school.

Mask Requirements:

Beginning Friday, September 3, 2021, all students, staff, and visitors will be REQUIRED to wear masks while indoors at any of our North Gibson School Corporation facilities. All students and staff are also required to wear mask while riding on school buses.

Vaccinations are not mandatory for students or staff, however, unvaccinated students and employees will be required, as outlined by the CDC and ISDH, to quarantine if deemed a close contact of a Covid-19 positive individual. While vaccinated students and staff are not required to provide verification of their Covid-19 vaccination status, should a vaccinated individual be deemed as a close contact, we are required to verify Covid-19 vaccination status to avoid quarantine requirements.

Screening for Symptoms of Covid-19

1.) Parents/Students are encouraged to do the following prior to arrival at school each day:

- Take student(s) temperature prior to leaving the home. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher must stay home from school.
- If a student is experiencing any other symptoms of illness such as congestion, coughing, stomach aches, diarrhea, vomiting, etc., the student should remain home.
- Student(s) should remain home until symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours.
- If diagnosed with Covid-19, the following must occur before a return to school will be allowed:
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
 - Experience 24 hours without fever (without fever reducing medicine)
 - Note from a medical provider indicating return to school.

Close Contact Tracing

- When all students in the regular classroom setting and/or a school bus are masked properly at all times, close contacts will be identified if they are within 3 ft for more than 15 minutes of a Covid positive individual. Identified close contacts will not have to quarantine in this situation as long as they remain symptom free during the 14 day close contact period.
- In high risk activities such as lunch, band, choir and/or extra-curricular activities, contact tracing will be based on a distance of less than 6ft for a duration of more than 15 minutes in a 24 hours period of a Covid positive individual. Students identified as close contact in these setting must quarantine unless they have been fully vaccinated.

Quarantine and Isolation:

Quarantine will be required for identified close contacts in the event the close contact occurs in high risk activities such as lunch, band, choir, athletics, or other extracurricular activities. It will also be

required if students are deemed close contacts, and they have not been properly wearing their mask as required.

Quarantine (When required as stated above)

- The quarantine will either be 14 days, 10 days if asymptomatic but must mask and distance 6 ft. for days 11-14, or 8 days with proof of a negative test on day 5-7 if asymptomatic (must remain masked and maintain 6ft of distancing for days 8-14, but can return to school)

Isolation should be used for individuals with COVID –19 illness to separate them from those who are not infected (even at home).

- At home, anyone sick or infectious should separate from others, stay in a specific “sick room” and use a separate bathroom if available.
- Stay home for at least 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result. Individuals may return after 10 days as long as symptoms are improving, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.

Guidance for Testing and Quarantine Options:

- All fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic (even if a close contact) do not need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms throughout the 14 days following their exposure.
- Close contacts identified in the classroom setting who have been properly masking will not have to quarantine unless they are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19. These individuals must monitor for symptoms throughout the 14 day quarantine period and stay home from school if any symptoms occur.

Options When a Quarantine is Required:

- Asymptomatic close contact may return after Day 10 with enhanced precautions in place Days 11-14
- Asymptomatic close contact may return after Day 8 with negative PCR or Rapid Test on day 5 thru 8. Rapid test must occur at a registered testing facility, as at home test cannot be accepted. Continue enhanced precautions Days 8-14
- Asymptomatic close contact return on Day 15. May return to all prior activities without enhanced precautions or testing.

Enhanced Precautions for Early Return to School for Unvaccinated Individuals:

- Masked at all times on bus and during school day, no exceptions!
- Distance of at least 3 feet from others when inside the classroom, forward facing and receiving instruction during the school day.
- Lunch to be eaten separately from others as mask will be off when eating. Remain 6 ft. from others, no exceptions.
- Prioritize hand hygiene
- Symptom monitoring daily by parents and if needed by school staff during the school day.
 - o If ANY signs or symptoms of COVID –19 are identified while at home, student/teacher/staff should NOT come to school.

- o If symptoms develop during the school day, individual should be sent home as soon as possible.
- o Individual should obtain a confirmatory PCR test.
 - 1) If PCR test is positive, begin 10 days of isolation starting from the date symptoms began.
 - 2) If PCR test is negative, must complete remainder of 14-day quarantine at home.

Early Return and Early Return Precautions for Extra-Curricular Activities, including athletics, band, choir, and others:

1.) **Day 8 Return:** Students may return to extra-curricular activities on Day 8 with a negative test on day 5-8 (PCR or Rapid Test at a Certified Testing Center) and remain symptom free throughout day 8-14. If symptoms arise after the return, the student should immediately be removed from activity and remain home from school for the remainder of the 14 day period and seek additional testing to return to school and activities after day 14.

2.) **After Day 10 Return:** Students may return to extra-curricular activities on Day 11 without the requirement of testing as long as they have remained symptom free throughout the 10 day quarantine period. If symptoms arise after the return, the student should immediately be removed from activity and remain home for the remainder of the 14 day period and seek additional testing to return to school and activity after day 14.

3.) **Enhanced Precautions for Early Return to Extra-Curricular Activity:** While students will be allowed to return to full activity under the two above criteria, students will be encouraged by coaches and sponsors to mask and distance as much as possible when not engaged in rigorous activity, including in the locker rooms, meeting rooms, and sidelines. Parents and students should complete self-screening for symptoms at home each morning prior to coming to school. These precautions should continue from day of return through day 14 of the original quarantine period.

Classroom Social Distancing:

- 1.) Teachers must remove all furniture other than student desks/chairs, teacher desk/chairs and one small group table and chairs. Book cases will need to be pushed flat against the walls whenever possible.
- 2.) All classrooms will use single student desks and chairs. They will be forward facing in the same direction and teachers will do their best to ensure student desks are at least 3 ft apart. If student desks can be placed 6 ft apart in the classroom, then that should be implemented.
- 3.) Use of large group areas, such as classroom reading rugs, will be discontinued and should occur from student desks unless students can be placed at least 6 ft. apart.
- 4.) Teachers will be encouraged to use outdoor spaces freely when weather permits.
- 5.) There will be frequent cleaning of student desks throughout the school day.
- 6.) Each classroom space will be equipped with hand sanitizer. Teachers will require students to use the hand sanitizing stations on a regular basis. We will encourage a "Clean in and Clean out" classroom

procedure. Anytime a student enters the classroom, they will “Clean in” with hand sanitizer, and anytime they exit the room, they will “Clean out” with hand sanitizer. Additional opportunities for hand sanitizing will occur while in the classroom locations for extended periods of time.

7.) Student supplies that are brought to school will be for their own personal usage. Any classroom materials that are shared will be cleaned after each student use.

Hallway Social Distancing:

- 1.) Students will be 6 ft. apart from the student in front of them when walking down the hallway.
- 2.) Hallway markings will be present to encourage 6 ft. of distancing, especially in areas where students line up, such as restrooms. Signs explaining proper social distancing practices will be placed throughout the buildings.
- 3.) Water fountains will not be accessible. Students will be encouraged and allowed to bring a water bottle to school each day. Each school will have water available for those students who do not have water.
- 4.) Students will still be allowed to use lockers, however, access may be restricted to specific times throughout the day.

Restroom Social Distancing:

- 1.) Closure of urinals in the boy’s restroom (such as every other) will be implemented when proper partitioning cannot occur.
- 2.) The number of students allowed to enter restrooms at one time will be restricted to encourage social distancing.
- 3.) Floor markings will be placed in each restroom to encourage 6 ft. of distancing when waiting to wash hands, use the restroom, etc.
- 4.) Signage for proper handwashing will be placed at sink areas.
- 5.) Elementary restroom breaks will be scheduled by class to ensure that multiple classrooms are not accessing the restrooms at the same time.

Bus Social Distancing:

- 1.) All Students and Drivers are required to wear a mask when on the school bus per federal mandate. Bus drivers will be prepared with disposable paper masks for students who do not enter the bus wearing a mask.
- 2.) Students will be provided an assigned seat and will be required to sit in that seat during every trip.
- 3.) Parents who are able to transport students to and from school are encouraged to do so to help decrease the number of students riding the bus each school day

Arrival and Dismissal Social Distancing:

- 1.) Arrival: School doors will open at 7:35 AM. Students will be allowed to gather in common areas until 7:45 AM. At 7:45 AM, students will be dismissed to their classrooms where teachers and staff will be present for supervision.
- 2.) Arrival: Schools will use separate entry points for bus riders and students arriving by personal vehicle.
- 3.) Dismissal: Students released from class for school buses in waves rather than all going at once. This will allow students to go straight to the bus. If that isn't possible, students must be 6 ft. apart from other students in the bus staging area with appropriate staff supervision to ensure this is happening.
- 5.) Car Rider Dismissal: Students will be staged as far apart as possible during car rider dismissal.

Recess Social Distancing:

- 1.) Recess will be scheduled so that the number of students on the playground will be reduced.
- 2.) Daily cleaning of playground equipment will occur.
- 3.) Staffing of playground supervision will be adequate to monitor and encourage active movement and discourage social gathering of large groups of students.
- 4.) Student mask wearing will NOT be strongly recommended during outdoor recess time.
- 5.) During inclement weather, students will have indoor recess within their own classrooms and will be encouraged to play and socialize within their own personal learning spaces.

Breakfast/Lunch Social Distancing:

- 1.) Breakfast: Students who participate in school breakfast will take a Grab and Go breakfast to their classroom location.
- 2.) Lunch (Elementary): Students will eat lunch in their classrooms. Lunches will be served pre-plated in disposable containers and served in a grab and go fashion. Disposable utensils will be used.
- 3.) Middle School Lunch: Middle School lunch will eat in the cafeteria and be spread out 6 ft. apart. Multiple lunch periods will be in place to allow for social distancing.
- 4.) High School Lunch: High School students will be assigned to eat in the cafeteria or upper level of the gym during their designated lunch period. 6ft of social distancing will be implemented.
- 5.) Lunch (Middle School/High School): Self-service lines, such as salad bars, etc., will be discontinued. All food will be plated by cafeteria staff and placed in disposable containers and with use of disposable utensils.

Use of the lunchroom for elementary schools and lunchroom procedures for middle school and high school will continue to be revised throughout the school year.

P.E./Strength Conditioning Classes:

- 1.) P.E. teachers will plan activities that encourage social distancing when possible.

- 2.) Middle School/High School: Students will not be required to dress out for P.E.
- 3.) Equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after each class usage.

Nursing Area Procedures:

- 1.) Each school will have an established holding area for students exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 that is separate from the regular nursing area.
- 2.) Students taking medications in the nurse's office will be scheduled to prevent large groups arriving at the same time.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What will happen if a student or staff member is diagnosed with Covid-19?

- Isolation should be used for individuals with COVID – 19 illness to separate them from those who are not infected (even at home).
 - At home, anyone sick or infectious should separate from others, stay in a specific “sick room” and use a separate bathroom if available.
 - Stay home for at least 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result. Individuals may return after 10 days as long as symptoms are improving, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.

Will North Gibson provide a Virtual Academy option for students who do not feel comfortable returning to school?

- At this time, North Gibson will not be providing a Virtual Option for students for the 2021-2022 school year. If a student is quarantined due to a close contact or placed in isolation due to testing positive for Covid-19, schools and teachers will continue to provide learning opportunities for students which may include use of Canvas, Google Meetings, and other online learning tools.

When Can a Student Return to School after a Covid-19 Diagnosis?

1.) Students who are diagnosed with Covid-19 will not be allowed to return to school until the following conditions are met (as recommended by the CDC and Health Department):

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or a positive test result; and
- At least 24 hours have passed with no fever and no use of fever reducing medication; and
- Other symptoms are improving; though loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months and should not delay the end of isolation.