

Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District

Returning to School Plan – 2021-2022



ELG School Board Approval — 8/16/21

The learning environment protocols and procedures regarding the COVID-19 virus must be fluid, as it relates to the community transmission levels. We have monitored our local data trends and past outcomes to create our 2021-22 plans.

As we have learned from the past, local transmission trends can change quickly and may/will result in a change of procedures within the school.

Our mitigation strategies will be very fluid and may change. We will notify families of changes as they occur.

The cooperation and flexibility of all is greatly appreciated.

GENERAL DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS/GUIDELINES (Child Care - Grade 12)

COVID-19 Out Break Procedures:

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, the School District will work with the Sheboygan County Health Department in sharing information and communicating procedures to individuals impacted by a positive COVID-19 test. Anyone with a positive test is quarantined for 10 days from the day the symptoms started, or asymptomatic, from the day of the positive test result.

If a student/family member or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms and/or is being tested for COVID-19, immediate notification to the building principal or District Administrator would be very much appreciated. Family members should stay home until test results are verified. Family members will be quarantined if someone in the family/household tests positive for 14 days beginning the following day after last contact of a positive case unless vaccinated. **However, as always, if a vaccinated person would show signs or symptoms, feeling ill, etc., they should stay home.**

To repeat, as this is very important, **to help keep everyone safe, if a student/family member and/or staff/family member tests positive for COVID-19, or has been notified that they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed and exhibiting symptoms, please contact the school immediately so precautions can be put in place and the County Health Department contacted.**

Your prompt cooperation with this notification will be critical for stopping/minimizing any spread throughout the school community.

Close Contact Tracing and Quarantine for Unvaccinated Students/Staff – Outside of Family/Household:

We will be monitoring for evidence of school-linked transmission on a case-by-case basis when doing contact tracing. Individuals who are vaccinated (and have no symptoms) are excluded from contact tracing. Also taken into consideration will be if students are wearing masks when not able to social distance in the classroom or in group settings.

However, in all cases when students are identified as close contacts but not quarantined, parents will be notified to watch for the potential of symptoms to occur.

Students who develop symptoms after contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be required to remain in quarantine for the full 14 days.

The school will also work in partnership with the Sheboygan County Health Department to identify close contacts if requested/required.

COVID-19 Testing:

The District has worked with DPI to join with a partnering vendor to have the option to provide on-site testing on an as-needed basis for Outbreaks and Special Events.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Face Coverings:

- **The use of face coverings is optional. However, it is strongly recommended that unvaccinated students, staff and visitors wear face coverings when indoors, especially when not able to social distance.**
- **The use of face coverings is strongly encouraged for ALL people when unable to social distance for extended periods of time (more than 15 minutes), regardless of vaccination status.**

If we have a significant increase in positive cases here at school (multiple cases/significant spread in a classroom, school level, etc.), or are seeing a significant increase in community/District spread, masks/face coverings may be temporarily required for all students, staff and visitors (per Board action).

Travel -- Families/Students and Staff:

- Notification of travel out-of-state and/or country would be appreciated but not required.

Social Distancing:

- In order to promote a healthy and safe return to school, students and staff are expected to adhere to social distancing practices when requested – classroom settings, elem./m.s. lunch lines, etc.
- Students in high school and students in grades 7-8 (ages 12 and up) will try to maintain a minimum social distance of 3 ft. between desks in the classrooms; Elementary and grades 5-6 will have social distancing of 3 to 6 feet for desks in classroom settings.

Hygiene Education:

- Signage for hand washing and social distancing will be posted throughout the building.
- Teachers and administrators will model and reinforce appropriate hygiene practices such as hand washing, the use of face coverings, not touching face, and covering coughing/sneezing.

Health Screening:

- Staff members will perform a personal health check screening prior to reporting to school.
- **Parents are requested/expected to screen their children before going to school. Screening tool is included at the end of this information.**
- Staff and students shall remain home if experiencing symptoms of illness.

Attendance:

- The District will be flexible with the statutory attendance requirements for students/staff who may remain home due to experiencing symptoms, who may test positive and/or have to be quarantined due to exposure.

Student Temperature Checks:

- Daily temperature checks are not planned to be done this school year.

Student Arrival/Dismissal/Pick-Up:

- Doors will open for H.S. and M.S. students at 7:30 a.m. and Elem. at 8:30 a.m.
- Day Care opens at 6:00 a.m.
- We will be returning to pre-COVID procedures. Parents may come into the vestibule with drop-offs and pick-ups but staff would appreciate parents refrain from going down the hallway with their student as they are crowded and congested.
- A staggered dismissal will be used as was standard practice.
- **Parents will still have the option to call the office to send out the child when picking up for appointments, etc. instead of coming into the office in person.**

Parent/Visitor Access to the Building:

- Parent and visitor access is not limited. However, request that visits be pre-arranged when possible. Drop-in visits may not be able to be accommodated. Also check-in with office staff is required.

Classroom Procedures:

- Teachers will make every effort to provide desk/table arrangements with 3-6 ft. spacing.
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized as much as possible.
- Supplies will be available for students to clean their own area upon entering class.

Field Trips:

- Field trip requests will be considered on a case by-case basis, following similar procedure as in prior years.

Lunchroom:

- Students will have assigned seats (elem. and middle school – will be changed at various times throughout the year – more to promote socializing with all students).
- Additional lunch time will be kept at the elementary school; lunch times will be status quo at the middle school (grades 4-6; 7-8) and high school.

- Hand washing will be encouraged before and after lunch. Sanitizer standards will be available in the cafeteria.

Classroom Treats:

- No restrictions – homemade treats are welcomed.

Water Fountains/Bottle-filling Stations:

- Water fountains will be available for use as both a drinking fountain and bottle-filling station.

Playground:

- Recesses will be staggered to limit the number of students on the playground.
- Traffic routes will be established to direct the flow of students in and out of the building.

Cleaning/Disinfecting Plans:

- Daily room cleaning with disinfectant detergent.
- Routine schedule of full surface cleaning with an electro-static and/or mist sprayer -- includes classrooms, “common areas,” auditorium, gymnasiums, etc.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected minimally once each day.
- Locker room and fitness center will be disinfected daily.
- Disinfectant wipes will be available in all rooms/hallways so students can “wipe down” their “personal” areas before use (desks, locker handles, etc.).
- Disinfection of ‘high touch’ surface areas throughout the day using an EPA-registered disinfectant that is effective for use against COVID-19 virus. These include:
 - Door handles
 - Light switches
 - Sink handles
 - Bottle-filling stations
 - Vending machines
- Child Care and JK-grade 4 classrooms will have access to a spray disinfectant that is safe to be used on toys, soft objects, etc. and is safe for young children who may put objects into their mouths. These bottles will be properly labeled and stored properly by the “teacher” in the classroom/Child Care room.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building -- by all entrances, the playground, the gymnasiums, the cafeterias, the offices, etc.
- Hand sanitizers will also be available in all classrooms. Wall-mounted sanitizers were ordered this spring and will be installed as soon as they arrive (we have received a partial order). Until the remaining wall units arrive, bottle hand sanitizers will be available in classrooms, etc. and sanitizer stands will be set throughout the building. Elementary students will be encouraged to use the sinks in their rooms and wash hands with soap and water often during the day.

Food Service:

- All food service staff will be wearing face coverings when preparing, handling and serving food (in addition to hair coverings which are required by food service regulations).
- Food service staff will be adhering to all DPI food service guidelines (This is also in accordance with the Sheboygan County Health Department expectations).
- Students at the elem./m.s. levels will practice social distancing waiting in line for their food (these distances will be marked for elementary school students).
- Students will have “assigned seating” in the cafeterias/lunch areas.
- Food service staff will serve the hot lunch to all students.

Ala' carte items available to purchase for middle and high school students will be pre-portioned in grab-n-go containers.

- **Hot lunch will be provided free of charge again this school year.** Procedures for signing up will be explained to students.
- **New this year – Free “bagged” breakfasts provided in the classroom for elem. and m.s. students.** Procedures for signing up have been shared with registration materials and emails sent by office staff.
Mr. Faris will continue to have “snacks” available for h.s. students.

- Tables and “high touch” areas will be sanitized prior, between and after lunch periods.
- Plexi-glass partitions are being installed over the food serving areas at all locations.
- Sanitizer stands will be available in each cafeteria.

Transportation:

Working with Johnson Bus Company, the following guidelines will be implemented:

- **Per Federal Mandate, Face coverings are required for all people riding the public transportation, which includes a school bus. If a student enters the bus without a face covering, one will be provided; however, if this happens to often, the situation will be addressed with the principal.**
- Buses will be disinfected per scheduled established by the bus company.
- Seat assignments will be in use.
- Family members will be seated together.
- When weather permits, windows should be open on the bus to allow for fresh air circulation.
- Students should refrain from touching other students, seats, walls, etc.
- Students will be encouraged to practice social distancing and remain seated.
- Students are to cooperate with the directions provided by the bus driver.

4K / JK NOON BUSING (VIA DISTRICT VANS):

- Same guidelines as above will be implemented, as applicable.
- In addition, children’s booster seats will be disinfected before use

ATHLETICS / CO-CURRICULARS

Athletics:

- At this time, the District will follow the COVID-19 guidelines as posted online – WIAA Fall 2021 Sports Guidelines. In addition, WIAA continues to recommend the following (per email sent by WIAA on 7/21/21). This is their wording taken directly from their email:
 - Masks are strongly encouraged for individuals not fully vaccinated.
 - Continue with proper hygiene – do not share water bottles, regularly clean and disinfect equipment
 - Socially distance when possible
 - Full vaccination is strongly encouraged – keep in mind a person fully vaccinated is exempt from quarantining. Protect yourself, your team, and your season.
 - Schools follow local health department guidelines.

At this time, there are no attendance restrictions. Fans are encouraged to attend – masking/face-coverings optional; social distancing encouraged. Admission fees for spectators will be reinstated for the 2021-22 season.

Co-Curriculars (Non-athletic):

- All non-athletic activities will proceed as normal as possible – keeping personal hygiene practices and social distancing in mind. Also, all guidelines/expectations in place during the school day will be followed.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

ELGS believes a face-to-face environment best meets our students’ needs – academically, physically, emotionally and socially.

However, there may be extenuating circumstances/medical conditions where special accommodations may need to be made for individual students. This will be done through consultation/communication with the respective building principals.

Virtual instruction will be limited to these extenuating circumstances and if/when students need to be quarantined/isolated due to COVID-19. Virtual instruction will not be provided when students are home sick (we want them to rest and get well so they can return), on vacation, etc.

Mental Wellness:

- Classroom and counseling staff will continue supporting student mental health and addressing their needs.
- It is crucial for students to be back in session with caring adults. This will be very beneficial for the mental health of students and staff for the following reasons:
 - Encourages face-to-face interaction vs. social media/technology to gain perspective.
 - Allows for meaningful conversations and true relationship building.
- The District strongly encourages parents and students to communicate concerns with the school to ensure that students' emotional and social needs are addressed.

What happens if the District is required (State or Local Mandates) or deemed necessary (local health conditions) to go back to a Virtual Learning Environment?

While the District hopes this will NOT be necessary, we will be prepared to provide Virtual Learning for ALL students. Students will be issued their own learning device (Chromebooks), and hopefully have practiced with their teachers the learning management systems. Staff will share guidelines/expectations with parents and students if the situation of going “totally virtual” would happen. As stated, we hope and expect this not be the case, but want parents and students to know we would be ready should this occur.
