

Galena USD #499 Health Protocols

2021-2022 School Year

(Last modified 9.3.21)

During the 21-22 school year, we are prepared for a variety of scenarios so we can provide learning opportunities for our students in a safe and educationally sound fashion.

General School Operations Statement

Safely operating in our communities and in our schools requires the accumulation of “small,” individual choices we all make to responsibly address the physical, social and emotional wellness of ourselves, our loved ones and others in the community. As such, in all circumstances, we will continuously consult with the Cherokee County Health Department and engage in a principle based approach to ***developing recommended habits of healthy choices*** that may include, but are not limited to...

- Self-monitoring physical indicators of wellness
- Social distancing
- Use of PPE’s (including masks)
- Responsible hygiene practices such as hand washing and sanitizing
- Maintaining Healthy and Safe Facilities
- Greeting others respectfully
- Improving air quality

Though there will be rules that may change based on a variety of circumstances, rather than a set of rules to follow, we hope to help all individuals develop as critical thinkers and decision makers. We are asking every one of our employees and students to help with prevention efforts.

General Instructional Opportunities Statement

We will continuously build capacity as an educational system to flexibly adjust to potential interruptions in the instructional process while meeting individual student learning needs throughout the year. As we consider possible scenarios for meeting the instructional and learning needs of all students, we provide multiple engagement opportunities (including but not limited to On-Site) that promote both Academic and Social Emotional Learning. Additionally, moving forward, students will have increased access to on-site licensed counseling.

General Safety Measures

All procedures and practices related to pandemic related safety measures will be based on ongoing consultation with the Cherokee County Health Department (CCHD).

Overview

The following guidelines will be in place for On-Site Learning in Galena USD #499. With a priority being the health and wellness of students, staff, and patrons, these measures may be updated or changed as new information becomes available. Information from the Cherokee County Health Department (CCHD), KSDE, KDHE, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) will continue to be considered to guide the decision making process.

Guiding Principle

- The guiding principle for the safe operation of schools will be one of risk-reduction. Knowing that 100% risk-elimination under the current situation of the pandemic is not possible, several protocols will be put in place to reduce the risk of virus transmission so schools can open for students and parents. However, any human interaction during a pandemic situation carries with it some degree of risk of virus transmission.

Key Objectives

- To provide, as conditions allow, a positive learning experience for our students, while providing a reasonable risk reduction strategy for all.

General Information

- The information in this document is intended to highlight some of the principles and decisions driving other specific, procedural details for each classroom and building. Additional information will be communicated to meet the specific circumstances of each setting.
- The term “social distancing” or “physical distancing” will refer to consistent efforts to maintain separation between individuals according to timely recommendations in consultation with the Cherokee County Health Department (CCHD).
- Large group assemblies will only be permitted according to timely recommendations in consultation with the Cherokee County Health Department (CCHD).

- Infection prevention information will be available to staff and students at the start of the school year.

Student/Staff Responsibilities

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Employees or Students who have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify their school and stay home—DO NOT GO TO SCHOOL.

Periodic School Closures

- The District will continually monitor COVID 19 cases and will work with the CCHD when reviewing the level of localized virus spread.
- When conditions and/or circumstances related to localized virus spread require quarantine or closures, Galena USD #499 officials, in cooperation with the CCHD officials, will quarantine and/or close individuals, classes, or buildings for a specified period of time. Students and families will be informed of the closure and students will access remote learning for the time the site is closed.

Visitors

- The number of visitors to the schools, including the offices, may be limited based on consultation with the CCHD.
- Any and all masking requirements will be based on ongoing consultation with the CCHD.

Arrival (Last modified 8.27.21)

- Strategies to ensure social distancing during and upon arrival.

Breakfast and Lunch (Last modified 8.27.21)

- Washing hands prior to eating
- Pre-packaged meal items.
- Touchless check-out system for students
- No access to a microwave or refrigerator.

Facilities

- Limiting access to Water/drinking fountains to those that have a self-dispenser to fill a personal water bottle.
- Frequent sanitation of Entrance and Exit points.

Classrooms

- Assigned seats that maintain social/physical distancing standards to the extent possible.
- Utilization of outdoor space for class when possible.
- Limited sharing of supplies of any kind.
- Use of hand sanitizer or wash hands when entering and exiting the classroom.
- Limited use of lockers to discourage gathering of students.

Transitions

- Modifications to transitions between classes, lunch, recess, etc. to minimize and avoid mixing of groups of students

Recess

- Recess times may be staggered to limit the number of classes on the playground.
- Washing hands (soap or hand sanitizer) before and after recess.
- Staff monitoring for social/physical distancing.
- Disinfecting commonly touched playground equipment between groups of students when feasible.

Electives/Exploratory Classes (Last modified 8.27.21)

- At the elementary level, specialty teachers may rotate to classrooms to minimize student traffic in the halls when feasible.
- Specialty teachers may limit the use of shared equipment to the extent possible.

Technology

- Limiting the number of students using each device.
- Sanitation of devices between uses.

Students with Special Needs

- It may not be feasible, depending on the needs of the individual, to both adhere to the criteria outlined in this document and meet the needs of the student.
- Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Dismissal

- Modified procedures for Parents/guardians pick-up to avoid gatherings in the school lobby or in front of school.
- Maintaining social distancing by not congregating during and after dismissal.

Student Illness

- Students who are ill or experiencing COVID-related symptoms should not report to school and should notify the school.
- If students become ill after arriving at school, students will be isolated from others (Masks may be used if needed in efforts to isolate) and sent home immediately. Parents should pick up students from the health office as soon as possible (preferably within one hour) to avoid prolonged exposure. Following the onset of COVID-related symptoms, students will be required to remain out of school based on recommendations in consultation with the CCHD.
- Students who exhibit symptoms of COVID 19 should contact their health provider for additional instructions.

Staff Members Health and Safety Precautions

- Prior to reporting to work daily, employees should self-assess their health and not report to work if they have a temperature more than 100.4 degrees, feel sick or have COVID 19 symptoms.
- Staff members who exhibit symptoms of COVID 19 will be asked to leave the attendance center, return home and should contact their health provider for additional instructions.
- If necessary, the district will provide facial coverings or employees may wear their own. Employees may wear gloves, but instead, handwashing or use of hand sanitizer is strongly advised.

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Persistent Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever of 100 degrees or higher

- Chills, repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose or congestion
- Other flu-like symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Diagnostic Screening and Vaccinations (Last modified 9.3.21)

- The Test to Stay and Learn plan is a cooperative effort of the school district, Kansas Department of Health and Education (KDHE), the Cherokee County Health Department (CCHD) and Community Health Clinics of Southeast Kansas (CHCSEK) to provide diagnostic and screening tests and access to vaccinations throughout our school community.
- Participants in the Test to Stay and Learn plan (see below) will have access to three different initial screening assessments; an antigen test for COVID, an assessment for Flu A/B and an assessment for Strep A. PCR tests will also be available for additional screening.
- Tests are available for students and staff wanting to be tested for any reason during school hours.
- Testing before and after school (times yet to be determined) will be available at the nurses office in the Gene Russell Library Building for any students or staff wanting to be tested for any reason. Students/staff will remain in their vehicle on the west side of the Gene Russell building and an employee will come test the person in the vehicle.

Isolation for a Positive Case (Last modified 9.3.21)

- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 must be isolated for a minimum of 10 days after the onset of symptoms or after the sample collection for asymptomatic individuals. The individual must be asymptomatic and fever-free for 72 hours without medication prior to ending the isolation period.

Contact Tracing (Last modified 9.3.21)

- **Non-Household Contacts:** Individuals will be considered a close contact if they are within 6 feet for 10 minutes up to 2 days before symptoms start for an individual who has tested positive or, in the event the individual is asymptomatic, 2 days before the test.
- **Household Contacts:** Quarantine starts when the household contact is out of isolation or the first day of separating from the household contact. To begin the quarantine period, individuals cannot share any common areas with the individual who has tested positive.

Once the Quarantine Period has started: (Last modified 9.3.21)

- Duration: Asymptomatic students and staff may return to school on day 11 of the quarantine period; or
- With a negative PCR test performed on or after day 6, asymptomatic students and staff may return to school as early as day 8.
 - Individuals must remain in quarantine until results are received.
 - These individuals can be tested at the school and must be isolated from students and staff (6ft) while waiting on test results. Individuals can also wait in their car until the test is complete.
- These quarantine measures are specific to the school setting and do not apply to other settings

Exceptions to quarantine: (Last modified 9.3.21)

- Vaccinated individuals (2 weeks after their final dose) do not have to quarantine if they are exposed and are asymptomatic
 - Proof of completed vaccination is required
 - Due to the possibility of vaccinated individuals testing positive, a COVID test is recommended on days 3-5 and 7-9.
- If the person has proof they have had COVID (documentation of positive test) they are considered immune for 6 months and do not have to quarantine if they are exposed in that time frame and are asymptomatic.
- *Mask on mask exposures do not have to be quarantined if both parties were wearing masks correctly when one exposed the other. (Masks are required for Individuals using school transportation)****

Test to Stay and Learn plan: (Last modified 9.3.21)

Individuals participating in the Test to Stay and Learn plan who have been identified as a close contact may continue to participate in activities during the quarantine period in-person under the following conditions...

- Parental Consent for student participation in the plan has been given
- Individuals are asymptomatic.
- Individuals test daily.
 - Testing before and after school (times yet to be determined) will be available at the nurses office in the Gene Russell Library Building for any students or staff wanting to be tested for any reason.
 - Students/staff will remain in their vehicle on the west side of the Gene Russell building and an employee will come test the person in the vehicle.
 - The test results are given within 15 min of the test.
- Daily test results are negative.
- Individuals must wear a mask while indoors during the quarantine period.
- Individuals do NOT utilize school provided transportation during the quarantine period
- Additional attention to all COVID mitigation strategies will be given while individuals are onsite during the quarantine period.

- If the close contact tests positive, they will isolate per the positive case protocols.
- The local health department will determine if symptomatic close contacts may continue in-person learning if negative.

Protocol for Students or Staff Who Test Positive

- Individuals who test positive for COVID -19 will be isolated according to current CCHD protocols.
- The CCHD will provide official notification to the district of any positive COVID-19 case.
- The CCHD will provide guidance on the level of concern, potential for classroom or school closure, and length of closure.
- The CCHD will be responsible for and conduct contact tracing of individuals who may be at-risk of exposure to the virus, and will be in contact with those individuals regarding recommended next steps.
- The district will work closely with the CCHD investigating and enforcing cases requiring isolation for individuals who have or are believed to be high risk for testing positive for COVID-19
- The district will work closely with the CCHD investigating and enforcing cases requiring quarantine of those individuals considered a “contact” of someone who has or is believed to be at high risk for testing positive for COVID-19.

Communication Protocol for Students or Staff Who Tests Positive

- School officials will send appropriate information to parents and staff of the district’s notification regarding known positive cases of students and staff. The CCHD will conduct contact tracing and follow-up with impacted individuals.
- Except for circumstances in which the District is legally required to report workplace occurrences of communicable disease, the confidentiality of all medical conditions will be maintained in accordance with applicable law and to the extent practical under the circumstances. When it is required, the number of persons who will be informed of an employee’s condition will be kept at the minimum needed not only to comply with legally-required reporting, but also to assure proper care of the employee and to detect situations where the potential for transmission may increase. The District reserves the right to inform other employees that a co-worker (without disclosing the person’s name) has been diagnosed with COVID-19 if the other employees might have been exposed to the disease so the employees may take measures to protect their own health.

Transportation (Last modified 8.27.21)

- Encouraging parents to transport their children.
- Efforts to limit students to two to a seat. Seating family members together while riding the bus.
- Seating students based on pick up order. Students picked up first moving to the back of the bus. Assigning seats for the trip and attempting to control students walking past each other.
- Buses will be appropriately cleaned and disinfected after each route.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer available on each route.
- Based on the federal mandate, masks are required on school provided transportation.

Crisis Response & Drills

- Intruder, fire, and storm drills will occur with attention paid to social distancing.

Virtual Education

- A virtual school environment will be available through Greenbush Virtual School.

How is COVID-19 Spread?

COVID-19, like other viruses, can spread between people. Infected people can spread COVID-19 through their respiratory secretions, especially when they cough or sneeze. According to the CDC, spread from person-to-person is most likely among close contacts (about 6 feet). Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly *via* respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, like how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It is currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.