

Galena USD #499 Health Protocols

2022-2023 School Year

(Last modified 4.10.23)

During the 22-23 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 (Last modified 8.8.22)

- 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.

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 8.8.22)

- Strategies to ensure appropriate social distancing during and upon arrival.

Breakfast and Lunch (Last modified 8.8.22)

- Washing hands prior to eating
- No access to a microwave or refrigerator.

Facilities (Last modified 8.8.22)

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

Classrooms (Last modified 4.10.23)

Based on ongoing communication with CCHD and current health safety protocols...

- 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 (Last modified 8.8.22)

- Appropriate 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 (Last modified 4.10.23)

Scheduled use and sanitation schedules will be based on ongoing communication with CCHD and current health safety protocols.

- 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 (Last modified 4.10.23)

Schedules and procedural practices will be based on ongoing communication with CCHD and current health safety protocols and will ensure.

- Appropriately modified procedures for Parents/guardians pick-up to avoid gatherings in the school lobby or in front of school.
- Maintaining appropriate 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 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.

Screening and Vaccinations (Last modified 4.10.23)

- 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 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 different initial screening assessments; an antigen test for COVID, an assessment for Flu A/B.
- Tests are available for students and staff wanting to be tested for any reason during school hours. At home tests will also be provided.
- Testing before and after school will be available at the nurses offices at the high school and at Spring Grove for any students or staff wanting to be tested for any reason. Testing begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Students/staff may make arrangements with the nurse to test.

Isolation for a Positive Case (Last modified 4.10.23)

The following protocols within the Galena #499 Test to Stay and Learn are being implemented to remain consistent with current Kansas Department of Health and Cherokee County Health Department guidelines.

- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are required to stay home from school for 5 days after the onset of symptoms. Individuals who are asymptomatic and fever free for 24 hours without medication may return to onsite school activities as early as the 6th day

Contact Tracing (Last modified 1.10.22)

- Because of the high probability individuals in public spaces are subject to widespread exposure and transmission, KDHE has provided guidelines for

suspension of contact tracing in school settings. As such, the Galena USD #499 will

- Suspend the practice of identifying close contacts.
- Suspend the practice of providing notification of specific incidents of exposure to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Parents (Last modified 1.10.22)

- Parents
 - Regularly monitor your children for symptoms of COVID-19 disease.
 - Do not send your child to school if they are sick or if they test positive. (see information above regarding individuals who have tested positive)
 - Notify the school if your child tests positive.
 - Tests will continue to be available at the school.
 - Individuals displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be required to test to participate in school activities.

In short...if you feel ill, don't come to school. If your child is ill, don't send them to school.

Protocol for Students or Staff Who Test Positive (Last modified 4.10.23)

- 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.

Transportation (Last modified 4.10.23)

Per current guidance from CCHD USD #499 may...

- 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 may be 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.

Crisis Response & Drills (Last modified 8.8.22)

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