

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:

Student and employee masking will be optional with decisions for masking students left to parents/guardians and individual employees, except on school buses, where masks are required for ALL individuals due to Federal Mandate which we are required to follow. However, North Gibson School Corporation strongly recommends parents follow CDC and ISDH guidelines for masking.

Based on ISDH, CDC and Local Health Department Guidance, it is strongly recommended that unvaccinated students and staff wear masks or other face coverings while at school. North Gibson School Corporation is strongly recommending that unvaccinated students staff wear face covers in the following situations while at school:

- While entering and exiting the school building
- While transitioning in hallways for restroom breaks and moving throughout the building hallways for any purpose.
- When working in close proximity with others while in the classroom, such as during collaborative group work, small groups, or working one-on-one with a teacher or staff member.

When students are in the classroom and working in their own learning space (ie. single student desk), students we will not strongly recommend wearing a mask. We will be encouraging use of individual learning spaces as much as possible to allow students to learn in a face covering free manner.

In K-6 grade schools, we strongly recommend masking indoors (except while eating) for students who are not yet eligible for vaccination and other individuals who are not vaccinated. When outside, masks will not be necessary when you are outside and social distancing will be encouraged.

In 7-12 grades and all staff members:

Vaccinated: If vaccinated, no mask will be required as well as no social distancing. In addition, no quarantine will be required IF you are identified as a close contact, but you must continue to monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, isolate and obtain Covid 19 test. While providing proof of vaccination is not required to attend school, in the event a student or staff member is identified as a close contact, proof of vaccination must be provided to avoid the requirements of quarantine.

Unvaccinated: If not vaccinated, masks are recommended as well as social distancing. If deemed a close contact, one must quarantine. If symptoms develop, isolate and obtain a Covid 19 test.

DUE TO FEDERAL MANDATE, ALL INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS) RIDING A SCHOOL BUS MUST BE MASKED AT ALL TIMES.

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.

Quarantine and Isolation:

Quarantine should be used for students, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.

- Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the local public health department about when it is safe for them to be around others.

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 who are unvaccinated MUST quarantine

Options for quarantine

- 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 on day 5,6, or 7 or negative BinaxNOW in school on Day 8. 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 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.

For ALL extra-curricular activities, including but not limited to athletics, cheerleading, band, choir, orchestra early return, unvaccinated individuals MUST do the following:

- Masked at all times –no exceptions both **inside and outside**
- If mask cannot be worn due to risk associated with mask during activity, student should not practice, compete, or attend the activities until after a full 14-day quarantine is complete.
- Distance at least 6 ft. away from others (when the activity is indoors). When the activity is outdoors, mask at all times and distance as much as possible.
- If 6 ft of distance between others cannot be maintained at all times when indoors, students should not practice, compete, or attend the activities until after a full 14-day quarantine is complete.
- Wash hands with soap and water or utilize hand sanitizer before and after playing/touching equipment
- Stay home if symptoms appear or if feeling sick

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 have 2 negative test results at least 24 hours apart
- Experience 72 hours without fever (without fever reducing medicine)
- Note from a medical provider indicating return to school