

## GPSD Grades PreK-6 Q&A 8/23/2021

Refer to [THE ROAD BACK](#) for the most up to date information regarding mandates for a safe return to school.

### Breakfast & Lunch Protocols

**Why do the kids need plastic shields during lunch if they have air purifiers?**

- *To ensure we are taking the necessary precautions to keep all students safe, we will be utilizing the shields between students while they are unmasked to limit their level of exposure.*

**What distance will you require the students to sit while having breakfast and lunch and will they have assigned seating?**

- *In the classroom, all efforts will be made to maintain the 3 feet distance between students. In the cafeteria, all efforts will be made to maintain as much distance as possible between students in addition to the use of the partitions while students are unmasked. Students will be assigned seats both in the cafeteria for lunch and in their classrooms for breakfast.*

**Can I send my child's lunch in with him or do they have to purchase lunch from the cafeteria? Are microwaves available at Bullock to heat lunch or can I bring a hot lunch to the school at lunch time?**

- *You may send lunch with your child or purchase from the cafeteria. However, microwaves are not available to the students in the cafeteria. In an effort to reduce the traffic in the building we ask that parents only come to the building for emergencies or if they are called to come in.*

**When will we be able to complete lunch forms and if kids had free lunch last year will they for the start of school?**

- *Please [click here](#) to access the lunch forms to apply for free/reduced lunch*

### Bus & Dismissal Protocols

**Are masks required on the bus?**

- *According to the CDC mandates, all students and staff are required to wear masks on the bus at all times.*

**Is the bus assigned by default to my child or do I have to sign up for bus transportation? How can I find out bus pickup time and place for a student?**

- *Transportation is provided to all students unless you are within walking distance from the school you are attending. This information is available in your child's PowerSchool account.*

**Is there a system in place so that if parents need to change students bussing it can be updated within a reasonable time?**

- *Please [click here](#) for the alternate transportation form as well as further information regarding transportation. All questions regarding transportation can be directed to [lrodriguez@gpsd.us](mailto:lrodriguez@gpsd.us).*

**Will parents at Bullock have to wait in line like in previous years for student pick up at the end of the day?**

- *Mrs. Marchese is currently working on updating arrival and dismissal procedures. Parents will be notified of any changes prior to the first day of school.*

**How will the school bus implement social distancing? How many students per bus? Will the kids be spaced out?**

- *Students will be spaced to the extent possible on the bus and will be given an assigned seat to ensure we are able to conduct thorough contact tracing if the need arises.*

**Will the buses be cleaned each time to school and to the next pick up?**

- *Sanitation guidelines will be followed and seats will be wiped down between each run between schools.*

## Classroom Protocols

**What is the process for cleaning special area classes (gym/music/etc) between class periods if students are traveling?**

- *Classroom teachers are being provided with the necessary materials to sanitize shared spaces between classes in addition to the daily cleaning from our maintenance department each day.*

**How is 6ft apart with desks going to be achieved with 20+ students per class? Will class sizes be reduced and what is the average class size?**

- *Pursuant to The Road Back, all efforts will be made to maintain 3 feet of physical distancing in the classrooms to the greatest extent possible. Class size will return to average numbers which vary by grade based on the number of students enrolled in each grade level. On average, there will be 20-23 students per class.*

**Will the school limit the amount of shared surfaces and materials? What is the plan to regularly disinfect surfaces throughout the school?**

- *Students will be provided with their own set of materials to utilize in the classroom and limitations will be in place for shared surfaces. In the event that a surface or materials are shared, teachers will have access to the necessary materials to sanitize those areas prior to the next student.*

**Will hand sanitizer stations be available at the school and in the classroom?**

- *Sanitizer stations will be strategically placed throughout the building as well as in the classrooms.*

## School & District Level Protocols

**Is there a police officer in each building?**

- *An SRO Officer is present in each of our buildings every day during regular school hours.*

**When should we expect to receive the students' school info (teacher info, bus info)?**

- *Rodgers school placement information was sent out on 8/3, Bullock information was released on PowerSchool on 8/24, and Bowe will be released on 8/26. Information is sent out through the email you provided in your PowerSchool account. Any questions or concerns regarding registration can be directed to [ewilliams@gpsd.us](mailto:ewilliams@gpsd.us). Transportation information will be released next week.*

**Will Back to School night for parents be virtual or have that option for both in person and virtual?**

- *This has yet to be determined. However, we would like to offer the option for both formats for events such as this.*

**How often are unvaccinated staff members getting tested? Will vaccinated staff be tested also? Will we be told whether or not our kids' teachers have been vaccinated?**

- *According to the mandates put in place on 8/23/2021, only unvaccinated staff will be required to undergo testing on a weekly basis after the October deadline. Vaccination status for staff members will not be shared with the public at this time.*

**Have additional guidance counselors been assigned to each school to address anxiety students may be suffering from? My child is having return to school anxiety , what programs will schools have to help?**

- *Guidance counselors are available in all buildings to all students. The beginning of the school year will focus on students returning to school with SEL strategies in place for all students.*

**Should we email vaccine cards to the school nurse if our child was vaccinated for covid?**

- *If your child has been vaccinated, we are requesting that you communicate this information with your child's school nurse.*

**How are you bridging the gap between where the K students left off last year versus where they should be for 1st grade?**

- *Students will be assessed utilizing the district benchmark assessments at the start of the school year to ensure instructional interventions are in place for those students who require additional support in addition to the supports that will be in place for all students in the classroom.*

**At Bowe, how do you conduct contact tracing for kids who move around from class to class? Are the students switching classrooms or are the teachers?**

- *Students will leave their classroom to go to special area classrooms as a class cohort. They will not switch classrooms for academic areas. Teachers will rotate to the various classrooms to teach their subject areas. This will not impact contact tracing as students will remain with their cohort throughout the day.*

**Will there be recess?**

- *Pursuant to NJ state legislation, all students in grades K-5 will be provided with a 20 minute recess period.*

**Do we still need to fill out a “returning student” online? If so, where would I find that?**

- *We ask that you re-enroll/update your information in PowerSchool each year to ensure we have current information - especially emergency contact information such as phone numbers and email addresses. The link will be active on the district website on the first day of school.*

**Are there school supply lists for each grade level?**

- *All necessary materials are provided, however, if you prefer to purchase your own, please refer to your child’s PowerSchool information regarding placements and classroom supply wishlists.*

**Will outdoor air supply be increased in school buildings and classrooms, and how will the school verify ventilation is adequate?**

- *We verify our unit ventilators are in working order as scheduled maintenance. They are on a set cycle to circulate the outside air into the classrooms throughout the day. All of our units must pass indoor air quality control and meet all guidance under the state of NJ.*

**Are bathrooms in classrooms?**

- *Rodgers school has a bathroom in all Pre-K classrooms and half of the K classrooms. Bullock has bathrooms in the first grade classrooms, and Bowe bathrooms are shared amongst each grade level.*

**Is the pledge the same kind as last year we filled out through the glassboro portal website?**

- *The Pledge will be made available to all parents/guardians and must be completed for EVERY CHILD you have in the district. It will be comparable to what was sent out last year.*

**Will there be any testing prior to entering the school for both employees and students? Will we need to log temps everyday for the children?**

- *Screenings will not take place at the school level for staff or students. Parents are to abide by the protocols that will be included in The Pledge.*

**Once the vaccine becomes available for the next group of kids (ages 4-11), will the district organize a clinic or communicate this widely?**

- *The district will explore the possibility of providing a clinic if parents/guardians exhibit enough interest in holding such an event.*

**Can kids bring in their own hand sanitizer?**

- *Yes, students may bring in their own. However, we ask that you explain to your child that they are not allowed to share with other students.*

**How often are the air purifiers filters changed?**

- *The filters are rated to last 6 months and will be changed accordingly.*

**What grade levels attend each school and what are hours and drop off times?**

- *Bowe services students in grades 4-6 from 8:30am - 3:00pm*
- *Bullock services students in grades 1-3 from 8:00am - 2:30pm*
- *Rodgers services students in grades Pre-k & K from 7:50am to 2:00pm*
- *Any further questions should be directed to the building principal.*

**Is there going to be GAPA for students after school? If so, is it taking place in individual schools or are students being bussed to Bullock like previous years?**

- *The GAPA program is offered for all students through the Glassboro Child Development Center. Please reach out to them for further information.*

## Technology, Simulcasting/Virtual Learning

**If the child is quarantining at home, will they log in at home virtually? Will virtual learning be provided if the entire class has to quarantine ?**

- *The district may be confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases amongst staff and/or students. If the district is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of the scenarios listed above, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, the district will offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible. In circumstances when the school facilities remain open and in-person instruction continues in those classrooms that are not required to quarantine, those days in session will also count towards the district's 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.*

**If a child attends school in person does that child have to use a laptop? Or can they receive instruction without one?**

- *A laptop will be issued to each student for use in the classroom, grades K-12, to access Seesaw, Schoology, or other digital learning tools deemed appropriate for the curriculum. In-person instruction will involve the use of laptops on a daily basis, especially as we need to be prepared in case we need to switch to fully remote or hybrid learning.*

**Are we still using schoology?**

- *Yes, Schoology will continue to be the Learning Management System for grades 4-12 for the 2021-2022 school year.*

**Will the kids go back to virtual if there are too many cases in the school?**

- *Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, schools must be in session for 180 days to receive state aid. The statute requires that school facilities be provided for at least 180 days during the school year. Section (b) notes that where a district is required to close the schools of the district for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive and/or recommendation by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, days of virtual or remote instruction commensurate with in-person instruction will count towards the district's 180-day requirement.*

**Is the school providing chrome books for all students again this year and when can they be picked up?**

- *Students in grades PreK-3 will receive Chromebooks.*
- *Students in grades 4-6 will receive Windows laptops.*
- *Chromebooks will be available to students in their classrooms for grades K-6. Students will not bring their laptops home during the first week while we make sure they are educated on its use and care as well as digital citizenship. We also must collate all User Agreements to ensure that they are signed. Subsequently, students will bring home laptops as needed for digital home assignments.*

**Can you explain what simulcasting is?**

- *Simulcasting is synchronous learning broadcast from the classroom, intended for those students quarantined at home. Simulcasting will take place to the extent possible depending on the quarantine status of the class/school/district.*

**What if we do not want our students to bring home the chrome books?**

- *Students with access to a computer at home do not need to bring home their district-issued laptop/Chromebook; this assumes assignments are able to be completed at home without the district laptop.*

**Do you also anticipate using that virtual learning after the holidays for 2 weeks like thanksgiving for all? Or playing that by ear?**

- *Decisions about virtual learning depend on the status of cases in the area and the recommendations and mandates of local and state authorities.*

**Are there any resources available to be provided for any parents opting to homeschool? When and where can I pick up their packages??? What is the deadline for that? How can I do home school?**

- *The district does not provide materials for homeschooling. Virtual options are not offered in the public school settings at this time. Parents who choose to homeschool their children must procure the materials on their own or seek out an outside agency that specializes in homeschooling. The district reserves the right to ask for documentation to prove instruction is equivalent to that provided in the public schools.*

**If a parent wants to keep a child home can they? Is there a virtual option?**

- *Per state mandate, there is no simulcasting/virtual learning option for students who stay home voluntarily. Virtual assignments will continue to be posted on the Learning Management System and will be available for students who must take a sick day. If the school issues a quarantine due to close contact, simulcasting may be provided to the extent possible.*

**What is the protocol for remote learning for a child that has to quarantine due to travel?**

- *Per state mandate, there is no simulcasting option for students who stay home voluntarily. Virtual assignments will continue to be posted on the Learning Management System and will be available for students who must take a sick day or quarantine due to travel. If the school issues a quarantine due to close contact, simulcasting may be provided to the extent possible.*



## Quarantine/Sick Protocols & Absences

***Please note that any information related to specifics of COVID-19 exposure, quarantine, vaccination status, travel etc., can change at any time as recommended or directed by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH).***

**Will there be any leniency to the 15-day attendance policy in light of the requests to keep kids home whenever they have symptoms? If a student is exposed to covid and has to remain home, will those absences be excused?**

- *Students will be assessed on an individual basis. Excused absences will be given to students who are instructed to stay home by the school nurse for symptoms that are associated with COVID-19 as long as the protocols are followed for each building regarding student work responsibilities outside of school while in quarantine. If the school issues a quarantine due to close contact, simulcasting may be provided to the extent possible. As in years past, absences accompanied by a doctor's notes will also be excused.*

**Will students be required to quarantine after travel?**

- *Unvaccinated students will be required to quarantine, as per CDC guidance. Testing is recommended at day 3-5 after travel. If your test is negative, you may return to school on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after return to New Jersey. If student does not get tested, quarantine is required for 10 days after return to New Jersey. Domestic travel is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer. Quarantine is not required for travel to Delaware, Pennsylvania, or New York.*
- *Fully vaccinated students are not required to quarantine after travel.*

**What is the school protocol if there is a confirmed positive case in my child's classroom or if my child is a close contact? Will we be notified even though they are masked? Can they return to school with a negative test?**

**What if they are asymptomatic?**

- *All students who are identified as close contacts in the classroom (less than 3 feet for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more during the day) will require quarantine and parents will be promptly notified. Quarantine can be for a period of 10-14 days, dependent on transmission risk level and current directives from the NJDOH. In the low and moderate risk levels quarantine may be reduced to 7 days with a presentation of a negative test result, with test collected at 5 to 7 days after exposure. The directive applies to all students identified as close contacts, even if the student is asymptomatic.*

**If my child has had COVID-19 can I provide an antibodies test to prevent them from being quarantined?**

- *Persons who are clinically recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 3 months MAY not need to quarantine. Discuss with your child's school nurse as needed.*

**Will we get updates about the quarantine time frame as the CDC changes so parents can update their employment?**

- *All CDC, Department of Health, and NJ state mandates can be found online but will be communicated to parents if the change impacts the protocols put in place for the district.*

**Will children who stay home with asthma-like symptoms or flare ups from seasonal allergies have to quarantine for the full 7 days or can they come back after a negative test?**

- *Students who present with COVID-19 -compatible symptoms such as cough, breathing difficulty, runny nose, congestion, will require quarantine. Testing and follow up with student's medical provider will be recommended so that further informed collaboration can take place related to child's medically documented diagnosis and plan of care.*

**What kind of COVID test will serve to clear a child from quarantine? Will a rapid test suffice?**

- *At the present time, rapid and PCR tests are acceptable to possibly reduce quarantine in some cases. The school nurse will provide specifics of testing and return to school dates, should your child be required to quarantine.*

**What is the policy for the fact that you can still test positive up to 3 months after having COVID?**

- *Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and who are clinically recovered may not be required to quarantine. Discuss with the school nurse, as needed.*

**What happens if a student tests positive after the quarantine for 14 days?**

- *A person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 may test positive for a number of months. Students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days from symptom onset or positive*

*test result, along with resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms*

**New Jersey has three sets divided into a, b,c in regards to cdc policy with Covid-19. This policy shows the procedure as wherever a sibling could attend school or not. One child with covid stays home while another child who is not covid attends a different school. I am wondering if our schools are following this cdc policy?**

- *Household contacts of a person with COVID-19 -compatible symptoms must remain home and quarantine until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result.*
- *In absence of testing for the symptomatic person, quarantine for household contacts could be as long as 24 days.*
- *Siblings who are fully vaccinated and have remained asymptomatic after a household COVID-19 exposure are not required to quarantine.*
- *If the symptomatic household member tests positive for Covid-19, all unvaccinated siblings will require quarantine.*
- *Your school nurse can assist you with this situation if it arises.*

**If a child is experiencing symptoms, do his/her siblings have to quarantine also?**

- *Yes, please see above.*

**If my child gets Covid, would my other child have to quarantine if he/she has been vaccinated?**

- *Fully vaccinated persons do not require quarantine, as long as they have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID -19 exposure. Vaccinated persons should continue to monitor for symptom development and should remain home if symptoms develop and contact the school nurse.*

**What conditions/symptoms warrant a child being placed in the isolation room?**

- ***Two of the following symptoms-*** *fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, runny nose*
- ***One of the following symptoms-*** *cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or taste.*

## Masking Protocols

**Executive order 251 makes a mask exception for students who's "documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an IEP or 504, precludes the use of a face mask." Does this mean these students will be permitted to be unmasked in all settings? If I have a special needs child who is unable to wear a mask due to sensory issues, will he be able to attend school? Is there a plan for special needs students? Children who suffer from ADHD or on the autism spectrum?**

- *Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some individuals, however mask use is required for all individuals in indoor school settings with the following exceptions:*
  - *When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;*
  - *When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;*
  - *When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering.*
  - *When the individual is under two (2) years of age;*
  - *When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering;*
  - *When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;*
  - *When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or*
  - *When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.*
  - *According to Executive Order No. 251, individuals seeking a medical exemption from mask-wearing will be required to produce written documentation from a medical professional to support that exemption. Self attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient.*

### **Does my child have to wear a mask on the playground?**

- *Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised.*

### **Can my son opt out of wearing a mask and carrying a shield around?**

- *According to Executive Order No. 251, individuals seeking a medical exemption from mask-wearing will be required to produce written documentation from a medical professional to support that exemption. Self attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient.*

### **Didn't the school receive funding for PPE? Students should be receiving masks for 5 days if required to wear.**

- *The district has purchased a large number of disposable masks, including child sizes, which can be provided to students and visitors who require a mask.*

### **Will you be providing the GPSD themed masks for students to wash and reuse?**

- *This recommendation will be taken into consideration; further information regarding this will follow.*

### **There are times where my child has a hard time breathing with a mask on. Are there times where students can lower their masks for mask breaks? Is there a mask you can recommend that is easier to breathe in? What is the approved face covering? (Cloth, shield, N95, gatormask) Is there a specific type of face covering required to be used?**

- *The most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven such as cotton and cotton blends, breathable, and in two or three fabric layers. Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those that use loosely woven fabrics, and ones that do not fit properly are not recommended.*
- *Masks should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled or damp/wet.*
- *Disposable face masks should be changed daily or when visibly soiled, damp or damaged.*
- *Clear masks that cover the nose and wrap securely around the face may be considered in certain circumstances including for the teaching of*

*students with disabilities, young students learning to read, or English language learners.*