



Safe Return to School (Grades TK-5)

As with all best laid plans, this plan is subject to change in this ever-evolving pandemic environment. All Gridley Unified District Schools will reopen for student attendance on August 31, 2020. Currently, all schools are required to open in a distance learning format per directive from the State of California. Butte County Department of Public Health has offered an opportunity for students in elementary grades (TK-5 in Gridley) to return in person, following successful application for a special waiver, review of the reopening plan (this document), and consultation with the California Department of Public Health.

We are confident that our waiver reopening plans and procedures will allow our students to return safely and receive the education they deserve — *IN PERSON*. Our goal is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and provide students with an onsite education to enhance their lives including social connections, physical activity, and mental health benefits. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently called for the return to in-person instruction in schools due to *“the negative effects of missing in-person educational time as children experience prolonged periods of isolation and lack of instruction.”*

GUSD has established a dedicated COVID-19 Task Force that will monitor local conditions, collaborate with Butte County Department of Public Health, and regularly review updated guidance from the local, county, and state agencies. We have carefully considered the safety measures needed for McKinley and Wilson schools, as well as the supports and protocols should a student or staff member become ill or live in a household with an infected family member and need to have an extended absence.

GUSD Meets the California Department of Education Checklist for Reopening Schools

Cleaning & Disinfection

GUSD Maintenance and Operations takes pride in the care and cleanliness of our facilities and has been working since the March school closures on additional sanitizing and disinfecting practices.

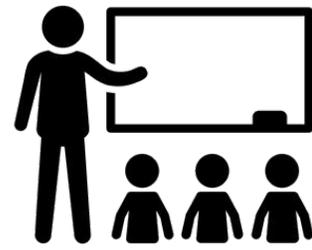


PURPOSE: To avoid the transmission of COVID-19, Mckinley Primary and Wilson Elementary will implement the following procedures:

PROCEDURES:

- Staff will sanitize high-touch surfaces at scheduled times through the school day.
- Disinfecting of classrooms and other spaces used during the day will occur between cohorts and after hours daily.
- Disinfecting spray bottles and paper towels in all classrooms and offices for staff interim disinfecting and surface cleaning.
- Training of all staff in the district in safe and appropriate use of disinfectants.
- Busses will be cleaned between routes.
- Drinking fountain use will be suspended; instead students are encouraged to bring bottled water or single use disposable cups will be provided.
- Students will be issued individual learning kits of all needed supplies to eliminate sharing of manipulatives, art supplies, etc.
- HVAC filters will be changed with increased frequency.
- Additional disposable PPE available as needed at each school site, for student and staff use.
- GUSD will follow disinfection guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for school campuses, including classrooms, workspaces, outdoor spaces, and playgrounds.

Small, Stable Cohorting



GUSD believes that classroom-based instruction and the structure of attending school on a daily basis is critical to our students' educational and social-emotional well-being.

PURPOSE: To assure that a safe distance is maintained between students, faculty and staff, GUSD will provide an in-person learning environment implementing the following distancing procedures:

PROCEDURES:

- Definition of Cohort: $\frac{1}{2}$ of the students in one class (no more than 12) will be considered a Cohort and will remain together in the same area for classroom instruction & recess to enable proper distancing.
- The establishment of a Cohort will provide for the safety of the students and a means of responding to any case of COVID-19 that would occur at the school by limiting the potential spread and exposure to COVID-19.
- Schedule is modified to allow time for cleaning between cohorts entering the space.
- All desks will face the front of the classroom, and students will wear appropriate face coverings.
- Classrooms will be cleared of unnecessary furniture or clutter that may get in the way of distancing or disinfecting practices. Temporary storage is available for this.
- GUSD has increased outdoor learning spaces on all campuses.
- There is to be dedicated entrances and exits on each campus, and directional signs will be provided to limit traffic flow in hallways.
- Assigned outdoor spaces will also be used for drop-off and pick-up
- Recess will be staggered and students will interact with students in their small cohort group only.
- Special Education services will be provided in a push-in model in order to maintain cohorts — students may also be served one on one.
- All staff meetings, professional development training, education, and all other staff activities, will be held remotely when possible, and if not, appropriate physical distancing will be exercised.

Campus Logistics and Movement Within The School



PURPOSE: To reduce areas of congestion and alleviate overcrowding our campus the following procedures will be implemented:

PROCEDURES:

- Student drop-off will occur at assigned entry points to prevent large gatherings. Parents are not allowed on campus for drop off. School staff will monitor each gate and facilitate the handoff of students from their guardians.
- Students move from gates to monitored cohort waiting areas or directly to the classroom where they will be screened for symptoms and wash their hands.
- Students who arrive late will be directed through the main office. Students with more than three tardies/trimester will be recommended for home learning program.
- Pick-up will occur outside in socially distanced designated areas to avoid large gatherings.
- Student supervision before and after school is limited to drop-off and pick-up times. PLEASE be prompt.
- Movement patterns will be adjusted, so children do not cross paths as they move throughout the campus.
- Social distance dots and arrows will delineate foot traffic so as to maintain appropriate 6 ft parameters
- Longer and staggered classroom transitions will be used to avoid large gatherings.
- Recess will be outdoors and staggered to allow for social distancing.
- Lunch will be served in a “Grab and Go” format in between cohorts.
- Parents/visitors will be allowed on campus by appointment only and must use a face covering consistent with state mandates.
- Schools will be limiting outside guests on all campuses to individuals or agencies providing direct services to our students.

Face Coverings

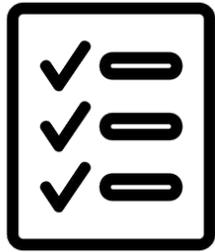


PURPOSE: To help prevent the spread and exposure to Covid-19, to establish a face covering protocol to be followed for faculty, staff, students and third parties (both parents and vendors) on our campuses.

PROCEDURES:

- Under the current California masking mandate, all staff and teachers will wear face coverings in the classroom per California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidelines.
- Masking is recommended for students in TK-2nd grade and are required for students in grades 3-5.
 - All campuses and busses have cloth and disposable masks available for students/staff when needed.
- Staff may also use transparent face shields when necessary to conduct educational activities. Staff must use face masks when not involved in direct instruction (e.g. when dealing with other adults).
- CDPH recognizes there are some people who cannot wear a face covering for a number of different reasons. People are exempted from the requirement if they are under age 2, have a medical or mental health condition or disability that impedes them from properly wearing or handling a mask, or when it would inhibit communication with a person who is hearing impaired. This medical condition must be documented in the IEP or communicated to the school by way of a physician's order.
- According to CDPH guidelines, if a student refuses to wear a face covering, the student will be excluded from on-campus instruction, unless they are exempt, until they are willing to wear a face covering.
- Students excluded on this basis will be offered other educational opportunities through distance learning.
- Cloth face coverings should not be worn during strenuous exercise such as PE.
- Labeled bags or containers will be provided for students' face coverings when not in use.

Health Screening for Students and Staff



The COVID-19 virus is spreading throughout our community and will continue to do so until either a vaccine or herd immunity ends the spread altogether.

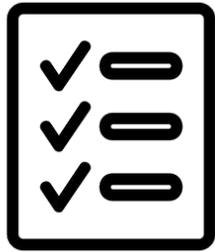
As we learn more about the virus, we now know that our youth are least affected and generally recover quickly. We also know much more about how the disease spreads and for how long a person may be contagious. With that knowledge, we are well prepared for what to do when a student or staff member exhibits symptoms or becomes positive.

PURPOSE: To provide for the screening of students and staff to identify potential exposure to COVID-19 and avoid the spread of COVID-19. GUSD will take all steps necessary to screen individuals for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 when entering our campuses. These steps are:

PROCEDURE:

- Parents will check their children for [symptoms of illness](#) in the morning at home before leaving for school. This includes a daily temperature check. Parents are to keep their children at home if they are showing any signs and/or symptoms of illness, especially COVID-19, which includes fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, uncharacteristic fatigue, sore throat, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, nasal congestion, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, rash, or headache. Students cannot return to school for at least 24 hours have past since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Employees will complete a [symptom screening](#) daily prior to coming on site.
- Students will also be visibly [screened](#) each time they enter their classroom. No touch thermometers are available for teachers to aid in screening.
- Children who exhibit any of these symptoms while at school will be sent home immediately (emergency contact is to arrive within 30 minutes of call).
- Students, teachers, or staff who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 must be excluded from school and quarantine for 14 days from the day of their last exposure.

Health Screening for Students and Staff, cont.



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PROCEDURE:

- Students, teachers, and staff who present with fever and/or respiratory infection symptoms will be sent directly to the Health Care Office on campus where they will be evaluated by a nurse or healthcare assistant and asked with whom they have been in close physical contact.
- Student/staff will be held in an isolation area in the health office until a parent or guardian comes to pick them up or they can drive home of their own accord.
- Student/Staff member will be asked to remain home until the test results either clear the student/staff to return or confirm a positive case of COVID-19.
- Students sent home for exhibiting symptoms or awaiting test results will be provided short term independent study opportunities while they are out.
- Staff members in quarantine or self-isolation who are not exhibiting symptoms may continue to provide Distance Learning lessons from home.

Healthy Hygiene Practices



PURPOSE: To assure proper hygiene and avoid transmission of COVID-19 the following procedures will be implemented.

PROCEDURES:

- In compliance with Butte County Department of Public Health guidelines and the guidelines of the State of California Department of Public Health, teachers have received training from our district nurse and through Keenan Safe Schools in the importance of proper hygiene protocols to reduce transmission of COVID-19.
- Regularly scheduled hand sanitizing and hand washing will be taught, practiced and reinforced throughout the school day.
- Both McKinley Primary and Wilson Elementary have handwashing stations and hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the campus.
- Students and staff will use unscented, ethyl-based sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.
- Students, especially younger children, will be taught to use a tissue, the proper use of tissues to wipe their nose, and to cough/sneeze into a tissue or their elbow.
- Unscented hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms and used under faculty and staff supervision.
- A staggered schedule will be implemented for handwashing routines by grade level to reduce overcrowding.
- Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and staff.
- All students will be encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day, as drinking fountains will not be used.
- Classroom doors and windows will remain open unless in extreme weather conditions.
- Signage will be posted throughout the school, reminding everyone of good hygiene practices. Examples include, masking, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, “stop the spread of germs”, maintaining social distancing.
- Faculty and staff that will be handling or serving food will be required to use gloves and face coverings
- Families will be provided with virtual orientation materials and printable handouts in Spanish and English regarding increased safety practices on campus.
- All families will be required to sign a Family/School Compact regarding Daily Home Health Screening and keeping students home when exhibiting symptoms.
- The faculty and staff will be recommended for COVID-19 testing if they have had close contact with a known positive case or if a family member tests positive for COVID 19
- If a faculty or staff member is symptomatic, they will be required to be tested.

Identification and Tracing of Contacts



The principals at each school site will communicate with Anita Oberle, our district nurse, regarding possible cases and exposure to COVID-19. Anita serve as point of contact and will communicate with Butte County Public Health about these reported cases. A list of exposed students and staff will be created and submitted to BCPH and the principal will notify the school community of possible exposure via phone, text and school website with attention to all state and federal privacy laws.

GUSD COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN:

Situation: COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing:

Action:

- *Send home
- *Recommend testing
- *Home isolation. Wait for at least 24 hours to have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- *School/classroom remains open

Communication: Not needed

Situation: Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (Close contact: a person who is less than six feet from a case for more than 15 minutes.)

Action:

- *Send home
- *Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure
- *Recommend testing (but will not shorten 14 day quarantine)
- *School/classroom remains open

Communication: Consider school community notification of a known contact

Identification and Tracing of Contacts, Cont.



GUSD COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN:

Situation: Confirmed positive for COVID-19

Action:

- *Notify the local public health department
- *Isolate the case and exclude from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date
- *Identify close contacts, quarantine and exclude exposed contacts/Cohorts for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious.
- *A detailed listing of close contacts will be submitted to BCPH by Anita Oberle, district nurse and COVID-19 liaison.
- *Recommend testing of contacts/Cohorts; prioritize symptomatic contacts/Cohorts (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine)
- *Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time
- *School remains open

Communication: School community notification of a known case

Situation: Improvement of symptoms

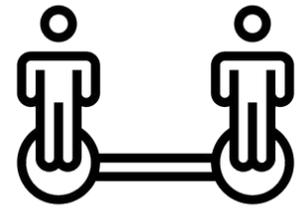
Action:

- *May return to school after at least 24 hours have past since last fever without the use of fever reducing medication
- *School/classroom remains open

Communication: School community notification if prior awareness of testing

This plan is based on the California Department of Public Health Guidance for Reopening K-12 Schools and CDC guidelines.

Physical Distancing



GUSD will maximize space in each classroom for classroom seating, such as student desks, teachers desks and other furniture. Van Avery Prep will place all desks facing forward and six feet apart from each other including the teacher's desk. GUSD will use markings on classroom floors and buildings to promote social distancing.

PURPOSE: Limit the spread of COVID-19 by teaching and encouraging students to maintain social distancing

PROCEDURES:

- Students will be kept in their cohort
- Each cohort is assigned one teacher and one instructional aide.
- Classrooms will be set up with social distance guidelines
- Teachers will use outdoor areas to teach as much as possible
- Cohorts will not mix
- Staggered recesses with assigned play areas will help with transitions and prevent cohort mixing
- Every cohort will have the opportunity to get fresh air outside
- Families can pick up “grab & go” lunches from the district’s main cafeteria site which will be consumed off campus
- Children will be taught and will practice staying 6 ft apart whenever practicable.
- In the event of extreme weather conditions, students will have an activity break in their classrooms rather than outdoor recess.
- Special Education services will be provided one on one to prevent the mixing of cohorts.

Staff Training and Family Education



GUSD will provide a digital copy of this plan and digital education resources regarding COVID-19 to families regarding physical distancing, enhanced sanitation practices, proper use, removal and cleaning of face coverings, how COVID-19 is spread, home screening practices and identifying signs and symptoms of COVID-19, as well the importance of testing and contact tracing.

PURPOSE: Limit the spread of COVID-19 by teaching staff and families the most important mitigation protocols and providing up to date, reliable information.

PROCEDURES:

All GUSD staff members have attended COVID-19 training that includes:

- Sanitation and disinfection practices (Keenan Safe Schools)
- Physical distancing guidelines
- Proper use of face coverings, removal, and washing
- Screening practices
- Proper handwashing techniques
- How COVID-19 is spread
- Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick, including the importance of not coming to work if staff members have symptoms or if they or someone they live with have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention
- The importance of testing and contact tracing
- The employer's plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school.
- The employer's plan and procedures to protect workers from COVID- 19 illness.

GUSD will provide families with resources on our website

- To [assist](#) parents and caregivers on deciding when to seek testing or medical care
- To screen students each day before school including temperature checks (thermometers were distributed to families in the Spring)
- To reinforce school policies to keep students home if symptomatic
- [Guidelines](#) to follow if exposed to COVID-19

Testing of Students and Staff

GUSD believes in the importance of early identification and intervention to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In the event of a positive test result for COVID-19 within our schools, the affected area(s) will be immediately closed, cleaned, and disinfected according to health department guidelines.



PURPOSE: Limit the spread of COVID-19 by testing and responding to positive cases.

PROCEDURES:

- Coordinate with local health officials. These officials will aid the principals'/district nurse's course of action for the school. Local health officials' recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissal will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in our school.
- In accordance with Butte County Public Health, notification of the school community would happen as appropriate with student privacy law. Both schools have alternate learning spaces available to provide for the continuous instruction of students in case of an unplanned room closure and sanitation.
- Gridley Unified School District will not be requiring routine testing of students or staff.
- If a student or staff member is sick with symptoms of or suspects they have been exposed to COVID-19, staff and students will be directed toward local testing facilities such as Ampla Health, RiteAid, or Orchard Hospital or their primary doctor for testing. If the District believes an employee has been exposed to COVID-19 the District may require the employee to be tested prior to returning to work.
- Current guidelines require that the following people stay at home from school:
 - A student or staff member who tests positive but is asymptomatic
 - A student or staff member who develops symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus
 - A student or staff member who has been in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning



According to the California Department of Public Health, individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with the Local Health Officer. School closure will occur when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least five percent of the teachers/student/staff are positive cases within a 14-day period.

The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data. GUSD will work in cooperation with Butte County Public Health to monitor school and regional conditions and respond accordingly. If GUSD is closed for in person learning, it may typically reopen after 14 days and after cleaning and disinfection, public health investigation, and consultation with the local public health department.

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- In the event state or local public health officials determine that school closure will occur, GUSD will move directly into distance learning. GUSD will utilize the online platforms currently established at each school site.
- Care for children of essential service workers will continue, in compliance with the guidelines established by the Butte County Office of Public Health

Communication Plans



GUSD will communicate with staff, parents, students, and coordinate with local health officials to inform dismissal decisions and the possibility of COVID-19 exposure. GUSD will adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act to maintain confidentiality of students or staff members.

- Staff and families will self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19 and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations relating to privacy and confidentiality, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Any student/staff awaiting testing results must self-quarantine whether or not they are exhibiting symptoms and should not to return for 14 days after the last known close contact with the case patient..
- GUSD will notify staff, families, and the public of school closures and any restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure (e.g., limited hours of operation).

Alternate Learning Options



Although we believe that classroom-based instruction is still the best option for students from an educational, social, and emotional standpoint, and that our campuses will provide a safe learning environment for our students, we are aware and prepared for students and parents who may not feel ready to physically return to school daily. We also want to ensure that we have options for students who may be medically fragile or have compromised immune systems. GUSD has options to meet the needs of these families. Students with disabilities will require an IEP decision to be placed in the appropriate educational setting.

Remote Learning

- For cohorts of students and teachers that may have to self-isolate or quarantine for a short period of time due to a COVID 19 exposure.
- Coursework delivered from regular teachers online via Zoom, SeeSaw (K-2) and/or Google Classroom.(3-5)

Short-term Independent Study

- For students who plan to return to regular, classroom-based school but will be out for two weeks at most due to illness or self-isolation.
- Must have a qualifying reason (COVID-19 self-isolation qualifies) and may require physician documentation.
- Cannot be extended past two weeks (10 school days) without Superintendent's approval.
- Requires a minimum absence time of five school days to qualify.

Home Learning Program

- For students who are not ready to physically return to school daily.
- Must enroll by August 14, 2020 and commit to the 2020-2021 school year.
- Will consist of parent/guardian delivered instruction from California State Adopted Curriculum provided by GUSD and supported by a GUSD certificated teacher.
- Students will be required to “check in” remotely on a daily basis.
- A certificated teacher will be available daily through regular office hours for consultation.
- Teachers will provide some instruction through recorded lessons for both parent and student benefit.