

**The following information is intended to answer some of the most frequently asked questions related to the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. We hope this information is helpful to families as you navigate through the first few days of school and beyond. Additional information can be found in the Green Township School District Restart & Recovery Plan located on our District website.**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Q. Will health screenings be needed for students, staff and visitors to enter the school?**

A. Yes, we will be providing instructions for staff and parents to conduct a digital self-screening based on simple health questions on a daily basis and ask that parents also take their child(ren)'s temperatures before leaving home. It is our hope that this pre-screening will reduce the potential for students and staff who are ill to come to the school, but there will also be a daily on-site process for temperature taking as an added precaution before anyone enters the school building. Additional information will be sent by the school to parents regarding health screening procedures.

#### **Q. If a student or staff member becomes ill during the on-site school day, what happens? Does the school shut down?**

A. The Department of Health (DOH) and CDC have issued guidance regarding the handling of illness in school. The guidance is varied dependent upon the situation. As of August 19, 2020 the guidance as dictated by the DOH is as follows:

- **Confirmed Case** (student or staff)
  - The DOH may recommend school-wide virtual instruction for a day to allow health department to complete investigation and contact tracing
  - All students and staff in class or on bus with a confirmed case are quarantined for 14 days
  - Confirmed case will isolate for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared and they have no fever for 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine to reduce fever) and symptoms improved.
- **Probable Case** (student or staff)
  - The DOH may recommend school-wide virtual instruction for a day to allow health department to complete investigation and contact tracing
  - All students and staff in class or on bus with a confirmed case are quarantines for 14 days or until probable case tests negative.
  - Probable case will isolate for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared and they have no fever for 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine to reduce fever) and symptoms improved.
  - Probable Case is recommended for testing
- **Reported Symptoms of COVID-19 with no known exposure to a confirmed case** (student or staff)
  - Student and staff member with symptoms of COVID-19 stays home for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared and they have no fever for 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine to reduce fever) and symptoms

improved. May return earlier after negative COVID-19 test or alternative diagnosis is confirmed.

- Symptomatic person is recommended for testing.
- Green Hills School Nurse's Office will be equipped with an isolation room and will be outfitted with Disinfection/Sanitization equipment to minimize risk. In the event that a student demonstrates COVID-19 like symptoms in school, they will be monitored in the isolation room until picked up by a parent or authorized emergency contact. See bulleted items above for procedural information.
- Two or more laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and in some instances, probable cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked within the school setting, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing will be reported to the DOH, and may require school to pivot to fully remote learning. The DOH will instruct the school as to next steps on a case by case basis.
- Individual cases outside of the educational setting that resulted from secondary transmission from an outbreak associated case (e.g. a family member of a student or staff) will be reported to the DOH, but may not require school to pivot to fully remote learning. The DOH will instruct the school as to next steps on a case by case basis.

**Q. The District Restart and Recovery Plan states that face coverings are required for all students and staff. What happens if my child forgets a face covering or their face covering becomes soiled or damaged?**

A. The District has purchased a limited number of face coverings for staff and students whose personal face covering becomes soiled or damaged. In the event that a student forgets a face covering, one will be provided, however as stated here, our supplies are limited so we are relying on everyone to please do their best to bring their own face covering on a daily basis.

**Q. What happens if my child cannot wear a face covering due to a health condition?**

In the event that a child is unable to wear a cloth face mask due to a medical issue, a parent should consult with the School Nurse, and will be asked to provide documentation from your child's doctor concerning the reason for the inability to wear a face covering. While the CDC has indicated that face shields are not a substitute for cloth face covering, a face shield that wraps around the face may be a viable solution in some cases. The opportunity for a child to change to fully remote learning is also an option for parents to request for their child who is not able to wear a face covering.

**Q. How will attendance for remote learners be taken?**

A. The School will provide specific information regarding attendance. Attendance for remote learners will be based on active and regular participation in remote learning as well as parental communication through Pickup Patrol.

**Q. Will hand sanitizer be provided for student use?**

A. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in convenient locations throughout the building. Remember that hand sanitizer is only a close second to hand washing. Teachers are building a hand washing routine into on-site classroom protocols. Students will be reminded to follow good hand hygiene protocols daily.

**Q. What does a socially distanced classroom look like at GHS?**

A. Most classrooms are outfitted with 10 desks that must remain at least 6 feet apart. Desks will be placed in rows facing the front of the classroom, as recommended in The Road Back: Restart & Recovery Plan, NJDOE. In classrooms where tables are in use, there will be plexi-glass barriers placed at the center of each table. No more than 2 students will be seated at a table with the plexi-glass barrier separating the students. Face coverings must be worn at all times.

**Q. Will there be times/reasons when face coverings are removed?**

A. Green Hills School teachers are building time for “mask breaks” into their schedule. Mask breaks will typically occur outdoors with social distancing, but may also occur inside in spaces where social distancing must continue to be maintained. Students will also have to remove face coverings in order to eat lunch in our socially distanced cafeteria or classrooms, dependent upon the grade level. Face coverings will be removed during any on-site physical education class when the level of physical activity makes it difficult to breathe properly if a face covering is worn. During on-site PE class, students will be kept at least 6 ft. apart at all times.

**Q. What does remote instruction look like? Will there be a schedule for students to follow?**

A. Students will follow a schedule for instruction 5 days per week, no matter the location of their instruction. A general description of both on-site and remote instruction is found in the Green Township School District Restart and Recovery Plan located on our District website: [GTSD Restart & Recovery Plan](#)

The schedule will consist of eight (8) regular periods from 8:12am to 12:50PM with additional instructional opportunities from 1:30 – 3:00pm. Remote instruction will take the form of both synchronous and asynchronous opportunities. Teachers will build in periods of time to instruct, support, and follow up with students during remote learning days. All students will follow a fully remote learning day with their teachers on Wednesdays, following the 8 period schedule with supplemental activities from 1:30-3:00pm. Teachers will provide specifics with regard to remote learning throughout the school year.

**Q. Can I change my child's school environment from hybrid to fully remote or from fully remote to hybrid after the school year starts?**

A. Yes. The Green Township Board of Education approved Policy 1648.02 Remote Learning Option for Families. This policy describes the current guidance from the State of New Jersey regarding the implementation of a fully remote learning environment available to families during the current health emergency. School districts were required to choose the availability and timeline for such requests to be approved. The Green Township School District opted for the least restrictive of the available options. If a parent wishes to change their child's learning environment during the current COVID-19 emergency, a Parental Request form should be filled out and submitted to the Principal. The Principal will respond to the parent within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the completed form, approving the change and indicating the date the child may begin in the new learning environment. The start date must be within 15 school days of the date the Principal approves the request. While the policy says that the process takes up to thirty days, we believe that in most cases the start date may be sooner, dependent upon the programmatic needs of the student, the period of time the request takes place, intermittent school holidays, etc.

**Q. How and when will my child eat lunch?**

A. All students whether learning on-site or remote will have lunch made available to them. The school schedule includes a specific period for lunch. Lunches will be available for days students are learning remotely. The school will provide additional information specific to the lunch program.

**Q. Will teachers be available to answer questions anytime during the day?**

A. Teachers will be available to respond to parents as they always have been. Teachers will be engaged in teaching for most of the school day, but will do their best to answer questions within a 24 hour period of time.

**Q. Will child care be available before and after school?**

A. Child care is available on the days students attend school on-site. Information concerning Child Care was sent to parents in late August.