

GENESEE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #282

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Website Link: (<https://www.sd282.org/Page/287>)

Approved by Genesee Joint School Board of Education - August 11, 2021

Introduction

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of communities. Genesee Joint School District is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students that support social and emotional development, provide access to services and improve life outcomes. Although COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission rates within the school setting, when multiple prevention strategies are in place, are typically lower than community transmission levels.

Genesee Joint School District is committed to working with the local public health department to determine necessary protocols and prevention strategies. School Administrators consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing prevention strategies against COVID-19. Genesee Joint School District 282 has created a Covid 19 Committee that creates and reviews protocols that the district follows to ensure the safety of staff and students on a daily basis.

Mitigation Strategies (Table 1)

Promoting Vaccination

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to prevent COVID-19. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at a lower risk of symptomatic or severe infection. Evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic, in most settings.

For additional information regarding vaccination clinics or additional information, contact North Central Health District at (208) 882-7506 or access the website at: <https://www.idahopublichealth.com/>

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

When individuals who are not vaccinated wear masks consistently and correctly they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Indoors. Mask use is recommended by the CDC for those who are not fully vaccinated including students, teachers and staff. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.
- Outdoors. In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, CDC recommends people who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks when in a crowded outdoor setting or during activities that involve sustained close contact with others who have not been fully vaccinated.

When masks are worn by teachers, staff or students, the masks should meet one of the following criteria:

[CDC Mask Recommendations](#)

[ASTM International Standard Specification for Barrier Face Coverings](#)

[NIOSH Workplace Performance and Performance Plus Masks](#)

****Genesee Joint School District will be supportive of people who are fully vaccinated, but choose to continue to wear a mask, as a personal choice or because they have a medical condition that may weaken their immune system.***

Modifying Facilities

Staff and families of students will be made aware of any situations where students and/or staff have been exposed. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school district, parents and students will be notified and given safety/ health recommendations or guidelines to follow. If necessary, classrooms may be rearranged or moved to a different area to allow for different physical distancing.

Genesee Joint Schools may implement the use of Cohorting when working in small groups. The use of Cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures within each group. Cohorting means keeping people together in a small group and having each group stay together throughout an entire day. Cohorting can be used to limit the number of students, teachers and staff who come in contact with each other, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distancing.

Physical Distancing: Based on studies from 2020-2021, the CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within the classroom for people who are not fully vaccinated to reduce transmission risk.

Handwashing and Health Etiquette

Staff and students will be encouraged to practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19.

- Hand sanitizer will also be available within/outside of every classroom for students to utilize.
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 sec.
- Teaching healthy habits such as covering mouth and nose appropriately.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- Standard cleaning procedures will be done daily.
- Bathrooms cleaned daily.
- Desks and chairs wiped down daily.
- Handrails, door knobs, light switches, telephones, sinks, drinking fountains, countertops wiped down daily.
- Lunchroom tables will be cleaned prior and after each meal service.
- Classrooms will be vacuumed daily.
- Computer labs / keyboards will be disinfected after use.

- Trash will be removed daily from the classroom / building.
- Cafeteria will be cleaned as required on a daily basis.
- Food service staff will wear gloves and masks and other PPE if necessary.
- Hand sanitizer, soap/paper towels and tissues will be made available to all employees/students.
- Plastic gloves will be made available to all employees.
- Gymnasiums and locker rooms will be cleaned daily.

Transportation

The following procedures will be in place throughout the school year regarding the cleaning and sanitizing of buses used for student transportation.

- Cleaning of seats will be done following every route or event.
- Students will be asked to set with family members when possible. Assigned seats may be given.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available on buses for student/driver use.

Contact Tracing

Genesee Joint School District will continue to collaborate with state and local health departments to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. This allows the district to identify which students, teachers and staff with positive test results should isolate and /or quarantine. School officials will notify, to the extent allowable by law, teachers, staff and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible (within the same day if possible) after the district is notified that someone within the school has tested positive.

****Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.***

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms. In K-12 schools, screening can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in person education.

Genesee School District will not be screening students or staff. Students and /or staff who are experiencing symptoms or have been directly exposed* will be asked to remain at home for 10 calendar days from the last day of exposure.

****If students or staff have been vaccinated and are non-symptomatic, they will not be required to quarantine.***

Students, teachers and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, will be expected to stay home and are encouraged to speak to their healthcare provider for possible testing and care.

Vaccinations

Existing laws and regulations require certain vaccinations for children attending school. Parents are encouraged to provide documentation of students' vaccination status to enable quicker identification of

non-vaccinated students who may need to be quarantined if they are exposed to someone who has tested positive with COVID-19.

The protocol to collect, secure, use and disclose information will comply with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) statutory and regulatory requirements.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Staff and parents of at-risk students will be encouraged to speak to a health care provider about safety protocols that are being recommended for them in a school environment. The Genesee Joint School District 282 will comply with any accommodations written in IEP's or 504 plans regarding Covid preventative measures or procedures.

Attendance and Absenteeism

Genesee Joint School District will monitor student and staff attendance on a daily basis. Students and staff will be encouraged to stay home when sick, especially if they have any cold or flu like symptoms. Students will also be sent home if they are running a fever (100.4) or display any signs of cold or flu like symptoms. Students and staff may return to school after 24 hours with no fever, no cough and no signs of illness are evident.

If the district has confirmed cases, schools will only operate under the guidance of the local health department. If school is in session, staff may take personal, sick or vacation leave unless there are other state or federal protocols in place.

If parents are uncomfortable sending students back to school they are encouraged to speak to Administration about possible options for Online instruction. Please contact Mr. Caldwell or Mrs. Moore for additional information.

Visitors

Genesee Joint School District will be limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations with people when there is moderate-to-high Covid-19 community transmission. All Visitors are required to be checked in and registered at the district office before entering the building.

Communication Plan

Genesee Joint School District has created a COVID Committee which will meet a minimum of every 6 months to review current protocols and the district "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services".

Covid-19 updates will be provided to the local school board and school staff when there are confirmed cases within the school community. No individual or personal information will be released to the community as a whole.

Narrative Information Required in District Plan (Table 2)

How the Local Education Association (LEA) is addressing and plans to address students' academic needs?

Genesee Joint School District #282 will offer online instruction as well as in-person instruction for students during the 2021/2022 school year. If parents are uncomfortable sending students to school, parents may contact District Administration to determine what options are available for their child(ren). Online services will be provided by Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) for the 2021/2022 school year.

Online students must be signed up for a minimum of a semester at a time. Attendance will be counted based on the student's academic progress in the online program. District assessments will be offered to students on days when school is not in full session (PD days).

Beginning in 2021/22, Genesee Joint School District has hired a full time Remediation teacher to work with students in grades K-6 who have experienced learning loss or at below grade level expectations. The school district will also resume the after-school program four days per week (M-TH) for grades K-12 where students may stay after school, at no cost, and receive homework assistance and work with a certified teacher.

How the LEA is addressing and plans to address students' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?

Genesee Joint District has a district wide focus on social emotional learning. The Genesee Joint School District is a School Wide Positive School District (SWPBIS) that focuses on the social well-being and healthy connections between peers and adults. Communication between schools, families and stakeholders is considered very important. The Genesee Joint School District has placed an emphasis on building lines of communication between the school district and homes of our students. During the 2020/21 school year the district purchased additional technology K-12 to allow teachers to provide direct instruction with students regardless of the student's location.

The district allocates professional development days throughout the school year to assess students who may be at risk academically, socially, emotionally etc. The district has created a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) that also addresses the academically and/or behavioral needs of students K-12. The district works to ensure that every student has at least one adult they have a connection with in the district. This will be utilized in conjunction with the Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) program that will be implemented in the Jr. High in the fall of 2021.

How the LEA is addressing and plans to address their staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?

The district will hold staff meetings with staff on a weekly basis to keep staff informed of any updates or information that needs to be shared regarding students/ staff exposure, changes to status of district etc. This increased communication has been found to be beneficial during the 2020/21 school year and we will continue to host weekly meetings throughout 2021/22.

The district also employs 1.5 counselors and they are available on a regular basis to support students and staff within the district.

The district medical insurance also allows staff to receive counseling through an additional EAP (Employee Assistance Program) that is offered at no cost for individuals 4x/year.

The process and timeline for review and revision of the plan no less than every 6 mo. through Sept. 30, 2023.

<u>Time line</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Jan 10, 2022	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
Jan 12, 2022	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review.	Supt. Moore
May 9, 2022	Plan Review – Planning for 2022/23 school year.	Covid Committee
May 11, 2022	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Supt. Moore
November 8, 2022	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
November 10, 2022	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Supt. Moore
May 9, 2023	Plan Review – Planning for 2023/24 school year.	Covid Committee
May 11, 2023	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Supt. Moore

LEA’s need to support and/or technical assistance related to implementing strategies identified in Table 1/ Mitigation Strategies and Table 2/ Narrative Information if applicable.

Genesee Joint School District 282 will continue to provide support to staff and students regarding the use of 1:1 devices within the district and for those who are participating in online learning. Professional development is planned for the staff regarding the use of programs, security options and supporting students in an online environment.

2021/2022 COVID-19 Committee Members

- Bayer, Jim Technology Director (PK-12)
- Caldwell, Kelly Secondary Administrator (7-12)
- Hanson, Jason Secondary Teacher/ History & Govt.
- Hubbard, Tanya Parent
- Johnson, Sherrie Secondary Teacher/ Health and PE
- Johnson, Tauna Elementary Teacher/ Science Specialist (3-5)
- Kirk, Heather Elementary Title One Director
- Moore, Wendy Superintendent/ Elem. Principal (PK-6)
- Morrow, Heather PK-12 Nurse
- Pickard, Becky PK-12 PE/ K-6 Health/ Keyboarding
- Smith, Marianna PK-12 Music/ Band Director
- Stout, Mackenzie Secondary Student