

North Gibson School Corporation

Re-entry Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year (Updated July 23, 2020)

North Gibson School Corporation has developed a plan for a full return to school on Aug. 7, 2020.

Learning Options:

Option 1: In-school learning with social distancing practices described below.

Option 2: Virtual Learning option for students whose parents are concerned with a return to traditional in-class instruction.

- Reliable internet access
- Access to a reliable internet connected device.
- Parent/Guardian commitment to supervise and assist in the facilitation of learning in the home environment.
- If a student does not come to school, they will not be able to participate in school sponsored extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, including school activities such as dances.
- Once enrolled in this option, the student must remain in this option until the end of a semester.
- High school courses will focus on core subject classes with limited elective options.
- K-8 online instruction will be limited to core subject areas with the greatest emphasis on English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

To participate in the Virtual Learning Option, a parent/guardian must complete and submit the Virtual Learning Option application to the student's school no later than July 31 at 3:00 PM. The application can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/qyBmif3SAxo5wYhE6>

The following social distancing and prevention practices will be in place to help ensure a safe return to school:

Mask Requirements:

Based on the executive order of Governor Holcomb, it is mandated that students in grades 3 through 12 wear masks or other face coverings while at school. North Gibson School Corporation is requiring that students wear face covers in the following situations while at school:

- Riding on the school bus to and from school
- While entering and exiting the school building
- While transitioning in hallways for restroom breaks and moving throughout the building hallways for any purpose.

- Any time that 6 ft of social distancing cannot occur, including in the classroom setting.

Students in grades K-2 are strongly recommended to wear masks or other face coverings in the following locations:

- While entering and exiting the school building
- While transitioning in hallways for restroom breaks and moving throughout the building hallways for any purpose.
- Any time that 6 ft of social distancing cannot occur, including in the classroom.

All students, regardless of age and grade are required to wear a mask or face covering on the school bus.

Students will not be required to wear their mask when outside on the playground, but will be required to wear their mask when transitioning to and from the playground area. Additionally, teachers and staff will be encouraged to seek time to allow students to take mask breaks when able to be done safely in an environment allowing for 6 ft of social distancing.

North Gibson School Corporation will provide each student with three face coverings on the first day of school. The state is providing a traditional mask for each student and North Gibson will be providing two Tubie (gator type covering) for each student. Students will need to come to school on the first day with their own mask.

All NGSC staff will be wearing face coverings as mandated by the executive order.

Staff and students with medical conditions that make the wearing of face coverings dangerous to their health are encouraged to provide physician documentation to their school or supervisor to properly document their health concerns. If possible, alternatives to a traditional mask will be encouraged in the event a health issue does not allow for a mask.

Screening for Symptoms of Covid-19

1.) Parents/Students are required 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 until fever free (without fever reducing medication) for 72 hours.
- If a student is experiencing any other symptoms of illness such as congestion, coughing, stomach aches, diarrhea, vomiting, etc., the student should remain home until symptom free..
- 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, and
 - Experience 72 hours without fever (without fever reducing medicine)

- Note from a medical provider indicating return to school
- If a household member other than the student is diagnosed with Covid-19, the student must isolate from school for 14 days prior to returning to the school environment. Please contact your child's school, and arrangements will be made to provide opportunities for continued learning during the isolation period.
- For additional return to school information, please visit:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/19D0Gv9NbNRLvr_dwjoqytNkQUj5KBIB-/view?usp=sharing

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.
- 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 6 ft. apart.
- 4.) Teachers will be encouraged to use outdoor spaces freely when weather permits.
- 5.) There will be frequent disinfecting of students' 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 "Foam In and Foam Out" classroom procedure. Anytime a student enters the classroom, they will "Foam in" with hand sanitizer, and anytime they exit the room, they will "Foam out" with hand sanitizer. Additional opportunities for hand sanitizing will occur while in the classroom locations for extended periods of time.
- 7.) Students supplies that are brought to school will be for their own personal usage. Any classroom materials that are shared will be disinfecting after each student usage.

Hallway Social Distancing:

- 1.) Students are encouraged to be 6 ft. apart from the student in front of them when walking down the hallway.
- 2.) If possible, hallways will be designated for one way traffic to reduce the student cross traffic passing. When that isn't feasible, hallways will be marked for directional traffic flow.
- 3.) 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.
- 4.) 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.

5.) Students will still be allowed to use lockers, however, access may be restricted to specific times throughout the day.

6.) It is strongly recommended that students wear face coverings when in the hallways.

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 hand washing will be placed at sink areas.

Bus Social Distancing:

1.) All Students in all grades and drivers are mandated to wear a mask when on the school bus. Bus drivers are required to wear a mask while driving the school bus.

2.) Students will be provided an assigned seat and will be required to sit in that seat 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.

4.) Buses will be disinfected after the morning and evening routes.

5.) Siblings and household members will be seated together on the bus whenever feasible.

Arrival and Dismissal Social Distancing:

1.) Arrival: Students will not be allowed to enter the school building until 7:35 AM. They will report directly to their classroom and will be supervised by their classroom teacher. The school day will begin at 8:00 AM. Students who do not eat breakfast at school are encouraged to arrive closer to 8:00 AM if feasible for the parent/guardian.

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.

6.) Wearing of face coverings is strongly recommended during arrival and dismissal times.

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.) Restrictions of activities that encourage student contact will occur, such as no soccer games, no basketball games, etc.
- 4.) Staffing of playground supervision will be adequate to monitor and encourage active movement and discourage social gathering of large groups of students.
- 5.) Student mask wearing will NOT be strongly recommended during outdoor recess time.
- 6.) 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 or another designated 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. Disposal 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 and locations 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.

P.E./Strength Conditioning Classes:

- 1.) P.E. teachers will plan activities that encourage social distancing.
- 2.) Middle School/High School: Students will not be required to dress out for P.E. but must wear appropriate footwear for participation.
- 3.) Locker Room usage will be restricted to 50% of students at one time.
- 4.) Equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after each class usage.

Other Consideration for Larger Classes of Students:

- 1.) Additional precautions are being planned for programs such as band and choral programs to help ensure the safety of participants.

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 needing acute care such as bandages will occur in the classroom.
- 3.) Students taking medications in the nurse's office will be scheduled to prevent large groups arriving at the same time.
- 4.) Nursing staff will use this decision tree when screening students to determine if students can remain at school or need to go home:
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_School%20Screening%20symptoms%20flyer_6-25-20.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Visitors to the School:

- 1.) Visitors are required to wear masks when in any NGSC school buildings.
- 2.) Visitors to the school will be limited to the office area as much as possible. If there are multiple people waiting in the office, visitors may be asked to wait outside of the main entrance to the school building.
- 3.) Parents/Guardians needing to meet with an administrator, teacher or guidance counselor must schedule the meeting in advance. Use of phone or video conferencing will be encouraged.
- 4.) Until further notice, visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch with students due to concerns of exposure to Covid-19.

Library Procedures:

With the closing of the schools for COVID19 in the spring of 2020, the libraries have been virtually untouched. According to experts in the medical field per the REALM Project sponsored by the Institute of Museums and Libraries, Washington D.C., COVID19 does not exist on materials that have not been touched in 72 hours. Therefore, the following plan is directed at the opening of schools August 2020 and forward.

- 1.) At all schools, library bins will be labeled as follows:
 - 5 bins, one for each day of the week

NO ONE is to touch the books after they are placed in the bins until they have been in the bins for 72 hours.

- 2.) When bringing students to the library, they are to be directed to deposit their books in the appropriate bin and look for a new book. Books that another student had cannot be checked out by another student that day. All books returned will remain in the bin for a minimum of 72 hours, then cleaned and checked in.
- 3.) If a student wants to renew a book they must bring that book to the circulation desk immediately upon entering the room, after they have sanitized their hands and ask the teacher to renew the book. That student is responsible for not letting another student have that book, as it has not

gone through the proper channels for the 72 hour check-in and sanitizing procedure.

4.) All students and teachers are to sanitize their hands once they enter the library and upon leaving the library each time they enter or exit.

5.) If a student removes a book from the shelf or box the book is in, it CANNOT be put back on the shelf or box. It must be placed in the bin that matches that day of the week.

6.) After 72 hours of being in the book box, the books will be returned to the shelves for check-out by library staff.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if my child has a health diagnosis that prevents them from attending school at this time?

- Parents will need to complete the Virtual Learning Option Application, which includes a physician form to document a valid health risk. Once this is completed and submitted the school will work collaboratively to develop a plan that may include the following:
 - Virtual Instruction through multiple means based on the ability of the students
 - Homebound instruction (if specific qualifications are met based on Board Policy)
- If your child has a significant health diagnosis that causes concern in regard to Covid-19, but the physician is comfortable with the student returning to school, it is still important to provide health information regarding the student's health issues to allow us to appropriately plan additional preventative measures that may need to be implemented for your child.

What will happen if a student or staff member is diagnosed with Covid-19?

- North Gibson will work collaboratively with the Gibson County Health Department. School Closure, if it must occur, could be from 1-5 days to allow for adequate cleaning of the facilities and to do contact tracing.
- In the event of a minimal closure, the district will communicate the method of learning. If it is a very short number of days, the make-up of those days may occur through the use of scheduled school make-up days and/or scheduled E-learning assignments upon the return to school. If feasible, a quick implementation of E-learning may be used to allow students to learn from home during a closure.

What will happen if the school district has to close for a significant period of time such as what occurred in April and May 2020?

- In the event the district must close for a significant period of time, such as what occurred in April and May 2020, we will implement E-learning procedures. We are working to continuously improve the use of E-learning to prepare for this possible scenario.

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,
- Experience 72 hours without fever (without fever reducing medicine)
- Note from a medical provider indicating return to school
- For additional return to school information, please visit:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19D0Gv9NbNRLvr_dwjoqytNkQUj5KBIB-/view?usp=sharing

What if a household member is diagnosed with Covid-19?

1.) If a household member is diagnosed with Covid-19, your student may need to isolate for up to 14 days from the first day of symptoms. Please refer to CDC guidelines and information from the Indiana State Department of Health for further information on isolation.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19D0Gv9NbNRLvr_dwjoqytNkQUj5KBIB-/view?usp=sharing

2.) Please contact the school to arrange for continued learning opportunities during the isolation period.

Resources:

- Indiana Department of Education IN-CLASS Guidance:
<https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/june-5-class-document.pdf>
- CDC School Re-opening Guidance:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>