

KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

A step by step guide on steps GFSD is taking and how your family can help.

POSSIBLE EXPOSURE & CLOSURE

Procedures that GFSD will take if there is exposure and/or possible school closures.

WELCOME BACK!



2021-22 PLANS AND PROTOCOLS

"WE EXPECT SUCCESS!"

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Granite Falls School Students, Staff and Families,

School resumes for our students on September 1st, and we are looking forward to having every student return to school to participate and learn every day! As you are aware, COVID-19 is still widespread, but we have been given updates on how to provide instruction to all students. Here is a brief overview. Further details can be found in this manual.

- Students, staff and visitors all wear masks when inside any of our buildings
- If students or staff don't feel well, stay at home
- Wash hands frequently
- Social distancing, though this should not prevent having school for all everyday
- Provide good ventilation
- Clean and disinfect schools

We are ready to welcome students back and provide as close to a "normal" student experience as possible but with masks.

Be well and be safe these last days of summer. See you September 1st!

Sincerely,

Dr. Josh J. Middleton, Superintendent

"We Expect Success!"



GFSD PRIORITIES

GFSD FALL 2021 GOALS

1 PROVIDE SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

2 COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON SCHOOL AND HEALTH INITIATIVES

3 PROVIDE EQUITABLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDER RESOURCED & UNDER REPRESENTED STUDENTS

4 PROVIDE CLEAR AND CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

RETURNING TO THE BUILDING

As we return to school, Granite Falls School District will work to ensure classrooms and schools are safe learning environments for all.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Health & Safety
- Exposure/Closure Procedures
- Student Supports



FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION



[FB.COM/GRANITEFALLSSCHOOLDISTRICT@GFSD332](https://www.facebook.com/GRANITEFALLSSCHOOLDISTRICT@GFSD332)



[GRANITE FALLS SD @GFSD332](https://twitter.com/GRANITEFALLSD@GFSD332)



WWW.GFALLS.WEDNET.EDU

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Wearing a face covering or mask is required to help limit exposure.

For Students

- At GFSD, masks or face coverings will be required for students in preschool through grade 12 while at school and when riding the bus.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own masks when possible. Masks must be school-appropriate if brought from home and follow the guidelines set forth in policy/procedure 3224: Student Dress. Masks will be provided to students if they do not have their own.
- Some individuals may have medical conditions that prevent them from wearing masks for extended periods of time. With documentation from a medical provider and meeting with Principal and District Nurse, exceptions may be made. In addition, face coverings/masks may not be required while students are eating and drinking.
- Students with documented intellectual and developmental disabilities, significant health conditions, or sensory sensitivities may have challenges wearing a mask. They will not be denied access to in-person learning opportunities if they cannot wear a mask.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available in every classroom.



For Employees

- Masks or face coverings will be required for all GFSD employees. Employees will be provided masks and all protective equipment necessary at each site. If employees prefer, they may bring their own mask from home.
- Desk partitions will be available for teacher use during small group instruction such as 1on1 situations.
- Protective shields will be installed at all main office locations.
- Gloves and N95 masks will be provided for nurses and other appropriate staff.
- Face shields and clear face masks will also be available for appropriate staff.

MASKS AT GFSD

Parents should discuss the importance of social distancing and wearing masks with their students prior to the start of school.



All students grades K-12 must wear a mask at all times with exception of certain scenarios.



Employees will be required to wear a mask at all times, in addition to ensuring social distancing whenever possible. Vaccinated staff members may remove masks if working in room where no students are present.

INCREASED CLEANING



Our focus on cleaning

- Adequate supplies of protective equipment, soap, paper towels, sanitizer, and tissue will be provided throughout each school and in the classrooms.
- Staff will be trained and expected to frequently clean high-touch areas such as countertops, desks, doorknobs, keyboards, light switches, handrails, etc. with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products.
- Each classroom will have a daily clean with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products.



COVID19 Do the 5!

- Wash hands frequently
- Maintain social distance
- Avoid touching mouth, nose, and eyes
- Cover cough and sneezes
- Stay home if sick

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help us keep your child and family safe at home. Here are a few tips to help control the spread of any illness.



Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.



Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.



Avoid contact with people who are sick and keep your child home if they are sick.



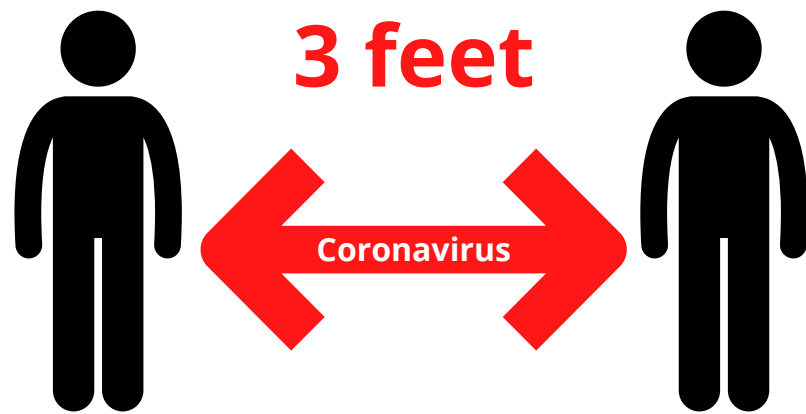
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

SOCIAL DISTANCING



Social distancing or physical distancing refers to maintaining 3 feet of separation between students (6 feet for adults). This recommended practice limits the spread of COVID-19. The following guidelines will help maintain social distancing during the school day.

- Prior to arrival, parents are to determine their child's health to ensure they are healthy to attend school.
- Each school will have specific processes for entering school. Look for communication from your child's school. Students who are participating in the breakfast program will report to the cafeteria.
- Arrival and dismissal procedures will minimize the opportunity for groups of students to interact.
- Signage will be in place to help students gauge appropriate spacing.
- Recess schedules will limit the number of students on the playground or within a specific area of the playground.
- Assemblies and student gatherings will be held in smaller groupings.



DISTANCING ON BUSES

Parents who can transport their students to/from school are encouraged to do so to help minimize the number of students riding the bus and allow for minimized student contact.



Modifications to bus loading and unloading procedures may be made, with students loaded from the back to the front to minimize student contact and interaction.



Students will be assigned seats to limit exposure.



Hand sanitizer will be available for students' use.



SCHOOL PROCEDURES



SAFER SPACES FOR STUDENTS & STAFF

In the Classroom

- Handwashing and infection prevention instruction will be required and taught to students.
- Students and staff will be expected to maintain distance from each other while in the school and taught appropriate hygiene/COVID practices.
- COVID19 Do the 5!
- Assigned seating and other measures, including arranging desks and tables will be implemented in the classroom to minimize interaction.
- Spacing will be increased between desks and tables to maximize social distancing.
- Students will use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom and will be expected to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer every hour and before and after eating.
- Classroom field trips will be limited and must be approved in advance.



In the School

- If students leave the classroom, a procedure to track students' names and locations of visits will be followed.
- Students should not be dropped off more than 10 minutes before school.
- Schools will develop procedures that limit the number of students on the playground or within specific areas of the playground.



DAILY MUST-DOS

In case of school closure due to COVID-19, students should take the following materials home each evening:

- ➔ District-issued device
- ➔ District-issued charging cord for the device
- ➔ Notebook
- ➔ Pencil and pen

WHEN YOU ARE SICK- STUDENTS



Parents and caregivers play an important role in limiting the spread of COVID-19 by actively screening their children for symptoms at home, prior to coming to school. Keeping your child home when they feel sick helps to protect other students, school staff members, and community as a whole.

Sick Students

- Parents are expected to perform a daily screening of their child before a student arrives at school to reduce the likelihood that a student will have to be isolated at school and sent home after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students who have exhibited any symptoms in the past 24 hours must stay home from school until symptoms resolve.
- Students who feel healthy but have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 must stay home and monitor their health until 14 days after their last exposure.
- Students who have taken any fever-reducing medications in the past 24 hours must stay home until they are fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours.

-
- Students showing symptoms shall quarantine for 14-days unless they receive a negative COVID-19 test or have a note from their doctor stating that their symptoms are directly connected to another medical reason.

AT-HOME SCREENING

Students should be evaluated by their parent/guardian before school daily by taking their temperature, gauging how they are feeling, and by making sure that they can accurately answer no to all questions below. If a question can be answered yes, an individual should not attend work or school and seek medical care as needed.

- ➡ Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher?
- ➡ Difficulty or trouble breathing?
- ➡ New cough or a cough that has gotten worse?
- ➡ New loss of taste or smell?
- ➡ Does your child have any of the following symptoms:
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Excess fatigue or extreme tiredness
 - New or severe headache
 - New nasal congestion or runny nose

SYMPTOMS ALERT

➡ Be Aware Of These Symptoms



Fever, cough, rash, sore throat, shortness of breath, congestion/runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, lack of appetite and lack of smell/taste

WHEN YOU ARE SICK- STAFF



Staff play an important role in limiting the spread to COVID-19 by actively screening themselves for symptoms and notifying their direct supervisor and Human Resources Department as soon as possible. Staying home if you feel sick helps protect other students, school staff members, and the community as a whole.

Sick Employees

- Employees are expected to follow the same screening procedures required for students and stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms. Employees must report any symptoms or potential exposures to their direct supervisor and Human Resources and follow district directions.
- Employees who are exhibiting symptoms should be tested immediately and notify their direct supervisor and the Human Resources Department for further direction.



AT-HOME SCREENING

Staff should do a daily evaluation of their symptoms before school daily by taking their temperature, gauging how they are feeling, and by making sure that they can accurately answer no to all questions below. If a question can be answered yes, an individual should not attend work or school and seek medical care as needed.

- ➡ Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher?
- ➡ Difficulty or trouble breathing?
- ➡ New cough or a cough that has gotten worse?
- ➡ New loss of taste or smell?
- ➡ Does your child have any two of the following symptoms:
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Excess fatigue or extreme tiredness
 - New or severe headache
 - New nasal congestion or runny nose

SYMPTOMS ALERT

➡ Be Aware Of These Symptoms 

Fever, cough, rash, sore throat, shortness of breath, congestion/runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, lack of appetite and lack of smell/taste

POSSIBLE EXPOSURE



GFSD has worked in coordination with the Snohomish County Health Department to develop procedures to provide a timely and comprehensive response in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 exposure at our schools. Throughout this process, the goal of GFSD will be to provide transparent communication while balancing our legal obligation to protect the privacy of individuals affected.

- Staff will be informed on how to isolate symptomatic students or staff members at school, handling positive cases, and assisting the Snohomish County Health Department with contact tracing efforts.
- Snohomish County Health Department will notify GFSD of potential exposure to COVID-19 in the learning and/or working environment and GFSD will support the Snohomish County Health Department in its follow up work.
- Anyone determined to be at potential risk for exposure will be contacted directly and will receive appropriate guidance.
- GFSD will communicate with necessary parents and/or staff within the building or department regarding the potential exposure.

If a student gets COVID-19

- GFSD will notify families of students who have had close contact in the same class/cohort; while on the same bus; or on the same club or team.
- Snohomish County Health Department will conduct contact tracing and notification will be made to individuals who may have had extended close contact with the COVID positive student.
- The COVID-positive student may return to school when they meet CDC guidelines.

If an employee gets COVID-19

- GFSD will notify families of students and employees who may have been in close contact with a COVID-positive employee.
- Snohomish County Health Department will conduct contact tracing and notification will be made to individuals who may have had extended close contact with the COVID positive employee.
- The COVID-positive employee may return to school when they meet CDC guidelines.

IF THERE'S A POSITIVE



GFSD will follow the protocol on this page.

In the event of a positive exposure, GFSD must balance the public's right to know with protecting the privacy of individuals affected.

POSSIBLE CLOSURES



The decision to close GFSD schools may be made as a means to prevent further spread of COVID-19 or in response to increased student and/or staff absenteeism. The district will make school closure decisions in consultation with the Snohomish County Health Department.

- The school district will consider implementing school closures based upon city, county, and state guidelines and will consider the percentage of the population testing positive for COVID-19 relative to the environment of the school building. For example, age-level, make-up of building occupants, likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building.
- When there is confirmation a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, GFSD will work with the Health Department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community (building), and other factors that will determine when the building should close. Closure will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on age-level, make-up of building occupants, etc.
- All other unaffected sites will remain open.
- If temporary school closures occur, teachers and students will transition instruction to learning from home immediately until the building reopens.
- Communication between school and families will occur if there is a transition from in person to learning from home.

Student Directions in Case of School Closure

In case of school closure due to COVID-19, students should take the following materials home each evening:

- District-issued device
- District-issued charging cord for the device
- Notebook
- Pencil or pen

*Please note: should there be insufficient subs if a large number of teachers are absent, the district will provide learning at home materials.

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURE

GFSD will use a variety of communication channels to notify parents of possible exposures and/or school closures. Our ability to communicate with you depends upon the accuracy of contact information you have on file.



Please review information on GFSD Skyward Family Access to ensure your child's school has your current contact information.

LIMITED VISITOR ACCESS



VISITORS MUST WEAR MASKS

- Volunteers will not be admitted at this time. We look forward to inviting you in the near future.
- Visitors will be limited to contracted providers/associates, other allowable community partners (before and after school providers), and student teachers/practicum students.
- Visitors/volunteers should follow normal school procedures by checking into the office and completing the visitors protocol.
- Visitor/volunteer movement throughout the school building will be limited.
- A record of visitors/volunteers inside the school will be kept, and it should include areas of the school that were visited and the time the visitor entered and exited the building.



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Schools will offer options to conduct meetings with families (inperson, conference call or video conference) so parents can continue to engage with teachers and participate in necessary discussions (i.e. IEP and 504 plan meetings, discipline conversations) while reducing the need to meet at school.

LIMITED VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

Visitors/volunteers will not attend classroom parties and they will not be allowed to eat lunch with students as space within school classrooms is limited due to social distancing expectations.

VISITOR SCREENING QUESTIONS

Individuals deemed essential to visit a GFSD building will answer the following questions prior to admission.



Have you experienced any COVID-19 symptoms?



What is the date, time and reason for your visit?



Where in the building are you going?

All visitors will also have their temperature checked prior to admission.

TRANSPORTATION



Bus transportation will be available for eligible students.

Bus transportation will be available to eligible students, but due to social distancing recommendations, it is highly recommended that students/families provide their own transportation. Students at higher risk of illness from COVID-19, as well as students with special needs who may not wear facial coverings, are strongly encouraged to use alternate forms of transportation, if possible.

- All bus riders must wear face coverings/masks, which will be provided if needed.
- Students will be required to maintain their mask and keep it with them during the school day.
- Students will be assigned seats on all routes, limiting the number of students per seat.
- Family members will be seated together.
- Bus drivers will seat students based on pick up order. Students picked up first should immediately move to the back of the bus.
- Buses will travel with some windows down to increase air circulation.
- Buses will be appropriately cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis.
- High touch surfaces will be disinfected between routes.

- Hand sanitizer will be available on all routes.
- Any student who exhibits obvious symptoms will be isolated on the bus and a parent/guardian will be contacted.
- Transportation will review the number of students per stop and limit the number when possible.

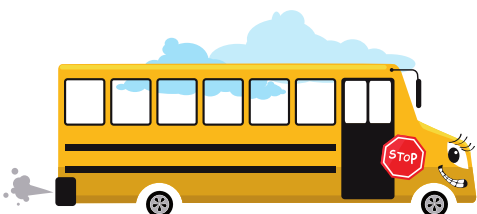
REGISTER TO RIDE

Eligible students who do choose to ride the bus must register and will be scheduled by appointment only.



Eligible bus riders were contacted directly. If you weren't contacted and believe you are eligible, please contact your building secretary.

Parents who can transport their students to/from school are encouraged to do so to help minimize the number of students riding the bus and allow for minimized student contact.



NUTRITION SERVICES



All Students Eligible for Meals

- Students who attend all-day will be eligible for breakfast and lunch on campus.
- Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria.
- Partial day students will need to eat prior to coming to school.



Meals will be offered to all students at school during the 2021-22 school year at no cost.

Details can be found on the district website.

STUDENT MEALS

- Students will be served breakfast and lunch on campus.
- Partial day students will need to eat breakfast and lunch prior to coming to school on their designated in-person class days.
- All-day students will eat lunch in the cafeteria or outside.
- Table groups and social distancing will be maintained.

DRINKING WATER



Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle from home.



Drinking directly out of water fountains is prohibited however students may use the fountain to refill their water bottles.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS



Mental health issues which accompany the COVID-19 pandemic have rapidly compounded public health concerns. Research assessing the mental health implications of COVID-19 has identified a heightened prevalence of depression and anxiety among children, which reflects the widespread effects of uncertainty and health-related fears.

To support positive mental health, GFSD provides a wide variety of programs and resources that may be helpful to your family.

- Counselors at every school will be accessible to students and families, in addition to regularly providing classroom lessons and discussions.
- Supports are also available through the Wise Team, which provide case management, individual/family therapy and connects students and parents to support services.
- Student Support Advocates at each school will help support students who are struggling with barriers like food insecurity, socioeconomic challenges or other concerns.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Some students may have special circumstances that require additional supports. Feel free to reach out to these GFSD teams that can connect you with specific resources:

➡ **English Language Learners:**
360-283-4507

➡ **Equity & Diversity:**
360-283-4311

➡ **Homeless Assistance:**
360-283-4353

➡ **Counseling Services:**
360-283-4311

➡ **Special Education:**
360-283-4311

ONLINE RESOURCES



GET THE LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

- CDC: Coronavirus Symptoms
- CDC: When and How To Wash Your Hands
- CDC: How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings
- CDC: Social Distancing
- CDC: Checklist for Parents & Teachers
- SnoHD & OSPI School Reopening Guidelines
- Snohomish County Health Department
- OSPI



SIGN-UP FOR ALERTS

Find the best way to stay informed. Connect with a communications resource that's right for you.

- ➔ Sign-up to receive text messages by texting: 'Y' or YES to 67587.
- ➔ DOWNLOAD OUR APP from the APP store- Granite Falls SD
- ➔ SUBSCRIBE TO GFSD NEWSLETTER- <https://newsletter.gfalls.wednet.edu/lists/?p=subscribe>

The latest information will be posted on the GFSD website, www.gfalls.wednet.edu.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1. How does a typical day start for a student or staff member?

Let's start with the beginning of the day...and that means when you first get up and out of bed getting ready for the day. Every day, every student and staff member needs to go through the quick health assessment questions and take a temperature. If a body temperature is 100.4 OR an answer is yes to any of the health questions, STAY HOME! While there is no requirement to report daily attestations to your school this year, it is still a good practice our families and staff members should conduct for themselves each day.

2. What if my child has no symptoms or a temperature?

The CDC urges parents, if possible, to drive students to school instead of putting them on a crowded bus. The district will provide bus service to eligible riders, but please note, in an effort to have as much ventilation as possible, some windows will be left open. Students should dress warmly. Bus riders will also be assigned seats. Multiple family members will be sitting together. Staff members, we ask that if you are not feeling well the night before, please submit a request for a sub at that time. Don't wait until the next day.

3. I have allergies which may result in sneezing, coughing or watery eyes. How do I alert my teacher or principal?

Allergies are common. At some point prior to coming to school or returning to work, let your school know.

4. Where Does My Child Go After Being Dropped Off?

Students will be dropped off and may enter the school for breakfast. Each school will have a protocol for entering and Principals will be providing those instructions. Please do not drop off students before 10 minutes to the start.

5. Can my student eat breakfast and lunch at school?

Yes, and this year our District will be able to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost.

6. I heard that water fountains will not be available for students and staff. Is this true?

Fountains will be available to refill water bottles. Please send your child with their own filled and marked water bottle each day. Extra water will be available, but it will be expected that parents provide this for their own children.

FAQ'S CONTINUED

7. What kind of hazard assessment has been conducted to lower the risk at school?

We are reminded that best prevention of the spread of COVID-19 is do to the following:

- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands regularly
- Maintain social distance
- Good air quality and ventilation
- Stay home if you're sick

In addition to these key elements, each classroom has been assessed for the maximum number of people while maintaining social distancing. Soap and hand sanitizer are plentiful and available at each school. If a student or staff member needs a mask , we do have those available.

8. What about room and school cleanliness?

That is also part of our hazard assessment. Each room will be cleaned daily.

9. Are schools required to have health officers?

Yes, the following individuals are health officers for their respective facility.

Mountain Way Elementary	Mrs. Dawn Weddle, Principal
Monte Cristo Elementary	Mr. Paige Ngyuen, Principal
Granite Falls Middle School	Mr. Dave Bianchini, Principal
Crossroads High School	Ms. Bridgette McVay, Principal
Granite Falls High School	Mr. John Kniseley, Principal
Facilities Department	Mr. Deon Freeman, Supervisor
District Office	Mr. Marshall Kruse, Director

In Addition, we have the following medical professionals on staff.

- MWE: Edith Dougherty, MSN, RN, NCSN.
- MCE: Cyndy Lawrence, BSN, RN.
- MS/CR: Brittney Lundberg, BSN, RN.
- HS: TBA
- District Head Nurse: Brittney Lundberg

FAQ'S CONTINUED

10. Are masks required to be worn at school?

Yes. This is non-negotiable except for a few exceptions. If a student isn't wearing a mask one will be provided. All students, staff and visitors must wear a mask when indoors or riding the bus.

11. Will there be recess for my child?

Yes, however the amount of students out at one time will be limited in size and scope. Schools will have a limited number of students outside at recess at one time and will be limited to specific areas while social distancing.

12. What if a student or staff member comes to school ill or becomes ill while at school.

We have put protocols in place for sudden illness. If a student becomes ill with non-COVID-19 symptoms, he or she will be assessed as always and a decision to return to class or be picked up will be determined.

For students who display COVID-19 symptoms, the student will be isolated in a designated room at his or her school. Parents will be contacted and expected to pick up the student and encouraged to see a primary care physician and have a COVID-19 test.

Staff members who get ill during the day who display COVID-19 symptoms will also be sent home and encouraged to be tested.

Students and staff who do get tested are asked to share results with the school. If positive, the County Health Department will also be in touch to conduct contact tracing.

13. What if a person who tests positive for COVID-19 is/was in a building?

The person will be removed immediately and the locations where the person had been are cordoned off and sanitized before any student or staff can return to that area.

Anyone who comes in direct contact with a positive COVID-19 case will be expected to quarantine for 14-days. Students who are quarantined will be encouraged to get a COVID test, staff are expected to be tested. Students may continue to complete school work remotely. Teachers may quarantine and if asymptomatic may continue to work remotely but need to be in contact with their supervisor and HR to determine the type of leave to utilize.

14. Is it possible a class and/or school will not be able to hold in-person instruction?

Yes. COVID-19 can spread quickly. There may be days where a school does not have any substitute teachers or the community spread requires the closure of classes and/or schools. We will communicate this to families and staff as quickly as possible.