



Gilpin County School District RE-1

Continuing School Plan

January 5, 2021

*Formerly the **School Restart Plan**-Revised 11/6/20; 10/9/20; 9/17/20; 9/3/20; 7/29/20*



Teaching and Learning

2020/2021 School Year

Mission

It is the mission of the Gilpin County RE-1 School District to provide a positive caring culture in a safe environment that is focused on academic excellence.

Vision

It is the vision of the Gilpin County School District to be schools of excellence and become a District of Distinction and Destination.



GILPIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

*10595 CO 119*Black Hawk, CO 80422*(303)582-3444*

Home of the Eagles!

December 28, 2020

Dear Gilpin School Community,

Governor Jared Polis released the [*“Roadmap to In-person Learning”*](#) report on December 15, 2020. The Back-to-School working group that produced this report included parents, educators, paraprofessionals, school nurses, local public health officials, and superintendents. The report supports the imperative for schools to continue providing in-person learning in Preschool through grade 12 schools in the 2021 spring semester. Polis also released two cover letters: one for [parents](#) and one for [educators and school staff](#).

With the development, approval, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, mitigating the spread of the virus is beginning to gain momentum. Gilpin County Public Health is a designated vaccination site beginning in spring 2021 and school staff may choose to be vaccinated during Phase 2 this spring and parents may choose to be vaccinated and have their age 16 or older children vaccinated during Phase 3 this summer.

Teaching and Learning

The District will continue with the three teaching and learning plans for the spring semester beginning on January 5, 2021.

- ***In-person Learning Program*** in the school building 4 days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m to 4 p.m.
- ***Remote Distance Learning Program*** will be provided by Gilpin teachers synchronously in real time with remote learners and in-person peers 4 days a week Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m to 4 p.m.
- ***Gilpin Online Learning Program*** is offered for K-12 students beginning January 6 through May 19, 2021.

Quarantine Response

The pandemic continues to evolve daily and the ***In-person Teaching and Learning Program*** operates on a one school day at a time schedule. The in-person learning model concedes that it is likely that the school will be on a rolling schedule through the spring semester due to COVID-19, moving fluidly from in-person to remote learning and back to in-person learning due to a 10 day quarantine issued for a class(es) or grade(s) or school(s). Since students and staff will likely be notified after school has dismissed or early in the morning of a school day that remote distance learning will be in effect due to a 10 calendar day quarantine for a grade/cohort/or close contact group/school(s), students should bring Chromebooks home at the end of each school day and bring Chromebooks back to school for the next in-person learning day.



Personal Health Responsibility

We need everyone's continued support and compliance to provide the in-person teaching and learning program. Given the number of months since the pandemic began, it is a natural occurrence to be exhausted by wearing masks, social distancing, and adhering to other health guidelines. Although most have some COVID-19 burnout, everyone in-person in the school must be responsible and continue to:

- self-screen every morning before leaving home by checking temperature and identifying the presence of COVID-19 symptoms;
- stay home from school if you are sick;
- conduct daily temperature and symptom checks at school each morning upon arrival;
- wear a mouth and nose covering;
- distance from others by staying 6 feet apart; and,
- frequently wash hands.

Updated Health Guidance

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) guidance, [*Cases and outbreaks in child care and schools*](#), was revised on December 15, 2020. Two highlights of this updated guidance include reducing the quarantine group time from 14 to 10 calendar days and detailing that teachers and other school staff members who wore an N95 face mask concurrent with a face shield or other [*medical grade eye protection*](#); who consistently maintained 6 feet or more distance from students and other staff members; and who were also behind desktop plexiglass; were less likely to be considered in the quarantine group when contact tracing is conducted. And, staff members would also be less likely to contract the virus from students and colleagues at school.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) COVID-19 Testing

In collaboration with Gilpin County Public Health Department (GCPH) the District plans to offer PCR COVID-19 mouth swab testing in the Health Office in January to students with signed parental permission and staff who are actively displaying symptoms identified at school; have been exposed for 7 days to a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual; and are currently in a school quarantine group (at the District's discretion, depending on other group variable considerations). Students and staff who display symptoms at home will not be tested at school. When sick, stay home and schedule a test at GCPH.

Travel Quarantine

Although voluntary in-state, out-of-state, and out-of-country quarantine after travel is recommended by public health officials, at this writing, there are not any current Governor Executive Orders or Colorado/Gilpin County Health Orders in effect for travel quarantine requirements. Consequently, GCSD does not have any travel quarantine requirements for return to school or work. As we did after the conclusion of Thanksgiving break, students and staff may return to school or work after winter break in January without quarantining after travel.

School Meals for All Students

The USDA is providing reimbursement to school districts for all students for breakfast and lunch. The Free Meals program is available to all students regardless of household income from August 10, 2020 through May 27, 2021. Since the reimbursement does not cover all our labor and food costs, elementary parents and MS/HS parents or students will need to order their meals ([*menu*](#)) for in-person learning by Wednesday at Noon for the next week to



eliminate food waste. Orders established during the fall semester do not need to be re-ordered. In-person students who are currently not getting meals and would like to start to have breakfast and/or lunch meals in January must contact Jane Yerkman jyerkman@gilpin.k12.co.us.

Continuing School Plan

The GCSD *School Restart Plan* has been revised and renamed the *Continuing School Plan*. This sixth iteration of the plan has new, updated information identified in the plan with *magenta highlighted text*. The *Continuing School Plan* will be revised in the future as the pandemic evolves and the principals collaborate on the teaching and learning programs with teachers and adjust protocols due to COVID-19.

Parents with questions, comments, and feedback about teaching and learning and COVID-19 protocols may contact your principal: hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us or adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us.

Since March 2020, teaching and learning has been challenging and equally as stressful for students, parents, and teachers. As vaccinations are given, the mitigation of COVID-19 and the end of the pandemic is in sight. With the fall semester completed, I ask that all members of the school community continue to persevere “one day at a time” to achieve a spring semester of accomplishments.

Sincerely,

David S. MacKenzie, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Continuing School Plan

January 5, 2021

Introduction

As the pandemic evolves through the school year, the *School Restart Plan* will be revised. The GCSD *School Restart Plan* has been revised and renamed the *Continuing School Plan*. Please note that protocols and practices will be revised at a moment's notice as the Gilpin County COVID-19 level changes from "Protect Your Neighbor" to "Safer at Home" to "Stay at Home" status and when the Governor issues an Executive Order (**Orange highlighted text added 11/6/2020**) one of the [six status levels](#) that went into effect on November 20, 2020. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) added **Level Orange-High Risk**, **Level Red-Severe Risk**, and **Level Purple-Extreme Risk**. Under the new levels, Gilpin County status as of November 23, 2020 is **Level Orange**.

Roadmap to In-person Learning

Governor Jared Polis released the [Roadmap to In-person Learning](#) report on December 15, 2020. The Back-to-School working group included parents, educators, paraprofessionals, school nurses, local public health officials, and superintendents who produced this report to support schools to continue providing in-person learning in Preschool through grade 12 schools in the 2021 spring semester. Polis also released two cover letters: one for [parents](#) and one for [educators and school staff](#).

With more data available about COVID-19, we now know that the risk level of in-person learning is low. The virus is less likely to infect younger children (birth to age 14), who are also less likely to spread the virus. Schools are incorporating cohorts and instilling a culture of mask wearing and social distancing among students and staff. Research supports the learning loss as well as the negative impact of stress on student mental health caused by isolation when students are not attending school in-person consistently or not at all. GCSD is committed to transitioning all students back to safe and consistent in-person learning. (**Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021**).

Reopening Schools Guidance August 2020

CDPHE, Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the Governor's Office worked together to develop this [Reopening Schools Guidance](#) for Local Public Health agencies (LPHAs) and school districts as they develop their *School Restart Plan*.

Reopening Schools Guidance states: "In cooperation with the CDPHE and CDC, the protocols below are designed to protect the health of students and educators. Several of the protocols are requirements through Executive Order and Public Health Order. We acknowledge that all of these guidelines may not be met with 100% consistency at all times. We encourage schools and districts to follow these guidelines to the best of their abilities and whenever feasible," especially for younger children, considering age and developmental appropriateness.

The *Reopening Schools Guidance* is divided into three categories: "Required" implementation by state statute or executive order; "Guidance" is intended to provide recommendations; and "Consideration" provides ideas to be determined by the school and district based on local student and staff needs.



GCSD *Continuing School Plan* (formerly the *School Restart Plan*) follows the guidance and protocols found in the following documents:

- Governor's Back to School Working Group December 15, 2020 [Roadmap to In-person Learning](#)
- CDPHE December 15, 2020 revised (*Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021*) [Cases and outbreaks in child care and schools](#)
- CDE/CDPHE [Reopening Schools Guidance](#)

1. Public Health COVID-19 Pandemic Protocols and Practices

1.1 *Protocols and Practices*

- Teach and/or reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Teach and reinforce appropriate use of cloth face coverings among students, considering age and developmental appropriateness, and staff when less than 6 feet apart from others, particularly in indoor settings.
- **Require school staff and students and parents** wear a nose and mouth covering whenever possible and, for students, considering age and developmentally appropriateness, during the school day and anytime when present in the building. Staff and students are expected to provide their own cloth nose and mouth covering, for example, a mask, bandana, or scarf. Patients with a pre-existing respiratory condition may be exempt with a doctor's note.
- Masks do not need to be worn during outdoor activities when 6 feet or more of social distancing can be maintained or indoor when 6 feet or more of social distancing can be maintained.
- Provide supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Schedule breaks for handwashing hygiene. Schedule nose and mouth covering breaks.
- Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a face covering.
- Avoid immediate contact such as shaking or holding hands and hugging.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, and other methods that do not pose additional safety or health risks.
- Remove portable fans (box, stand, oscillating, etc.) from classrooms and other interior spaces. Fans transport respiratory droplets in the air into the faces/eyes of others and increase the potential for COVID-19 spread.
- Open a window(s) (full to partial, depending on outside temperature) during the school day.
- Keeping interior doors open to increase cross-ventilation air flow in the interior space.
- The GCSD heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system does not include air conditioning. The HV system provides appropriate airflow and brings in outside fresh air year-round in classrooms and other spaces to mitigate the ongoing presence of COVID-19 and other viruses.
 - The outside air in-take has been increased, making it a few degrees colder in the building. Dress in layers as it will be Colorado indoors, especially on cloudy days when we don't have the sun to add heat to the building during the day.
 - HV system filters have been replaced with MERV-13 filters. HEPA filters in our HVAC system constrict and reduce air flow. MERV-13 filters remove >90% of particles in the air and provide more "fresh air" into circulation in the building. The MERV-13 filters will be replaced quarterly, or sooner when warranted.



- Touch Surfaces
 - Keep all touch surfaces (counters, student desks, teacher desks, table tops, etc.) clear of material (student name plates, books, paper, etc.) to aid in the frequent wiping of touch surfaces with disinfectant/cleaner.
 - Frequently touched surfaces, for example, door handles/openers/panic bars, should be wiped with disinfectant/cleaner frequently.
 - To create more space for social distancing and to reduce the amount of touch surfaces that need disinfecting/cleaning, remove unnecessary or unneeded furniture, for example, desks, chairs, tables, and/or book shelves.

1.1.1. Elementary Preschool through Grade 5

- **Temperature checks/Symptom screening**
 - Building entry will be at various exterior doors, creating “zones.”
 - Staff assigned to “zone” doors will complete and document a temperature and symptom screening at that entrance with each student.
 - Kindergarten and Preschool will enter through their egress classroom door to the outside, facing the playground. Those teachers will complete and document a temperature and symptom screening prior to students entering the classroom.
 - Students late to school and arrive after 8 a.m. will check in at the main entrance for the temperature and symptom check.
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - Students will receive daily Language, Reading, Writing, and Math lessons by their classroom teachers.
 - Students will continue to utilize on-line learning resources approximately 30-60 minutes daily.
 - Science and Social Studies will continue to support project based learning.
 - Art, Music, PE, and Technology are assigned by quarter. Students will change specialized content at the end of each quarter.
- **Classrooms**
 - Implement 3 to 6 feet physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
 - Nose and mouth coverings are worn at all times in the classroom, whenever possible and, for students, considering age and developmental appropriateness.
 - Masks do not need to be worn during outdoor activities when 6 feet or more of social distancing can be maintained or indoor when 6 feet or more of social distancing can be maintained.
 - Teachers provide a nose and mouth covering breaks and outdoor air breaks for students.
- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**
 - Wash your hands with soap and water.
 - When water is not available use hand sanitizer.
 - Rub your hands back-and-forth for 20 seconds (sing the ABC song).
 - Rinse hands with water and dry with a paper towel.
 - When to wash hands:
 - Before and after eating meals
 - After Recess and PE



- After using the restroom
- After sneezing, coughing or touching your face
- And, frequently throughout your day
- **Cleaning**
 - Touch surfaces should be cleaned periodically throughout the school day.
 - Hand sanitizer is available for student and staff use.
 - Touch surfaces will be sprayed with disinfectant after the end of the day to prepare for the next day.
- **Breakfast and Lunch**
 - To facilitate social distancing while eating, lunch will be in the classroom or the Multi Purpose Room (MPR).
 - Teachers are encouraged to take the students outside to designated areas to eat lunch whenever possible.
 - The USDA is providing reimbursement to school districts for all students for breakfast and lunch. The Free Meals program is available to all students regardless of household income from August 10, 2020 through May 27, 2021 (*Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021*).
 - Families need to order school meals by noon the Wednesday prior to the next week. Please contact your child's teacher or email Jane Yerkman jyerkman@gilpin.k12.co.us to order school meals.
 - Students may still bring snacks, breakfast, and lunch from home to school everyday. Please send cold items and limit food that requires heating. Lunch bags may have ice packs. Please wash lunch bags/cold packs nightly.

1.1.2. Secondary Grades 6 through 12

- **Temperature checks/Symptom screening**
 - Students enter the building and immediately report to First Period. Teachers will take students' temperature and ask the symptom check questions upon entering the classroom.
 - Students will remain in classrooms in their desks until the beginning of First Period.
 - Students late to school or who are scheduled to arrive after 8 a.m. will check in at the main entrance for the temperature and symptom check.
- **Passing Periods**
 - Passing periods will be staggered to limit the number of students in the hall.
 - The east and west staircases will be one way "up only" and the middle stairwell will be one way "down only."
 - Students will keep to the right side of the hallway and at a 6 feet distance from others while passing through the hallways.
 - Masks must be worn during passing periods.
 - Restroom occupancy limited to 4 students at a time.
 - Lockers will not be assigned. A small backpack is recommended. Students are to bring a charged Chromebook, notebooks, calculator and writing utensils.
- **Classrooms**
 - Implement 3 to 6 feet physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
 - Masks are worn at all times in the classroom.



- Masks do not need to be worn during outdoor activities when 6 feet or more of social distancing can be maintained or indoor when 6 feet or more of social distancing can be maintained.
- Teachers will allow for a mask break for students. Students may take a mask break in the hallway.
- No food in classrooms.
- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**
 - Hand washing stations are available in classrooms without a faucet and sink.
 - Wash your hands with soap and water.
 - When water is not available use hand sanitizer.
 - Rub your hands back-and-forth for 20 seconds (sing the ABC song).
 - Rinse hands with water and dry with a paper towel.
 - When to wash hands:
 - Before and after eating meals
 - After break/outdoor time and PE
 - After using the restroom
 - After sneezing, coughing or touching your face
 - And, frequently throughout the day
- **Cleaning**
 - Student desks will be cleaned at the end of each class period.
 - Hand sanitizer is available for student and staff use.
 - Touch surfaces will be sprayed with disinfectant after the last class of the day.
- **Breakfast and Lunch**
 - School lunch meals will be bagged and in the designated area for each grade level.
 - Students are supervised by teachers and assigned to common areas for lunch to facilitate social distancing while eating.
 - Teachers are encouraged to take the students outside to designated areas to eat lunch whenever possible.
 - The USDA is providing reimbursement to school districts for all students for breakfast and lunch. The Free Meals program is available to all students regardless of household income from August 10, 2020 through May 27, 2021 (*Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021*).
 - Parents or MS/HS students need to order school meals by noon the Wednesday prior to the next week. Please email Jane Yerkman jyerkman@gilpin.k12.co.us to order school meals.
 - Students may still bring snacks, breakfast, and lunch from home to school everyday. Please send cold items and limit food that requires heating.

1.2 ***Classrooms and Other Educational Spaces***

- Implement 3 to 6 feet physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
- Consider the utilization of additional barriers (e.g., plastic sneeze guards, face shields) for employees working directly with younger children or where spacing and masking may be more difficult for either staff members or students.
- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) multiple times per day. Shared objects should be cleaned between use.
- Disinfect and sanitize shared education tools regularly (e.g. books, whiteboards, computers).
- Ensure adequate supplies, to minimize sharing of high touch materials and disinfect between each use.



- Keep each child's belongings separated in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or taken home each day and cleaned.
- Avoid the use of items not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected (e.g., upholstered furniture or soft or plush toys).

1.3 Student Grouping/Cohort Management

- Consider keeping classes/cohorts together, as often as possible, to include the same group of children each day to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
- Minimize the mixing between classes/cohorts to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
- When students rotate from one space to another, the room and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized prior to having another group in the space.
- Reduce the number of shared items. Students will be expected to have their own school supplies to reduce or eliminate sharing items. Student supplies will be kept in their desk, backpack, cubby or other container.
- When common supplies and equipment are used by one group of students will be cleaned and sanitized prior to having another group of students use the same supplies and equipment.
- Limit group gatherings and events to those that can maintain adequate social distancing and support proper hand hygiene.
- All school events such as assemblies, plays, concerts, back-to-school nights, etc. will be placed on hiatus or will be redesigned for an on-line platform until further notice.
- All field trips and/or other activities outside of school will be canceled until further notice.
- Consider limiting the use of common space such as cafeterias and develop plans to allow students to eat in their designated (class/cohort) group whenever possible.
- Consider alternative classroom settings serving students with special health care needs.
- Recess will be staggered for groups to be in smaller numbers. Six foot distancing will be observed as much as possible.

1.4 Personal Responsibilities

- Staff and students are expected to provide their own cloth mouth and nose face covering.
- Staff members and students/parents should self-screen each morning before boarding the bus or driving to school by checking temperature and identifying if experiencing new or unexplained symptoms are present.
- Staff and student temperature and symptom checks will be performed at school each morning upon arrival.
- The symptom questions:
 - Temperature over 100° F? New or Unexplained Persistent Dry Cough?
 - Shortness of breath/Difficulty Breathing? Chills? Muscle pain?
 - Headache? Sore throat? Nausea or vomiting? Diarrhea? Running nose or congestion?
 - Loss of taste or smell?
- Staff and students are to stay home when they are experiencing new or unexplained symptoms. The student or staff member may attend school when no longer presenting symptoms and after being symptom-free for 24 hours.
- Staff will report illness and/or symptoms to their supervisor and families will report illness and/or symptoms to the school secretary/attendance reporting line.



- Student and staff who test COVID-19 positive and students and staff who have had a close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive test individual must report that information to Connie Oliver in the school health office coliver@gilpin.k12.co.us, 303-582-3444, extension 4131 (*Orange highlighted text added 11/6/2020*).
- Although voluntary in-state, out-of-state, and out-of-country quarantine after travel is recommended by public health officials, at this writing, there are not any current Governor Executive Orders or Colorado/Gilpin County Health Orders in effect for travel quarantine requirements. Consequently, GCSD does not have any travel quarantine requirements for return to school or work. As we did after the Thanksgiving break, students and staff may return to school or work after winter break in January without quarantining after travel.
- Please continue to keep your child home when he/she has illness symptoms. The [CDPHE At-home symptom screening tool: A home checklist for parents and staff](#) may be found on page 19 (*Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021*). For illness other than COVID-19, staff and students should stay home if they are experiencing symptoms such as:
 - fever, cough or shortness of breath, or diarrhea,
 - “flu-like” symptoms (Fever over 100°F with a cough or sore throat, tiredness, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea.),
 - coughing, mild respiratory or cold symptoms (Stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, and mild cough.), and
 - vomiting will stay home from school for 24 hours after the last instance of vomiting or diarrhea.

1.5 School Transportation

- To meet social distancing and small group requirements on school transportation, parents are highly encouraged to self-transport their children to and from school.
- Drivers will ask students if they have any symptoms before boarding school transportation.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in school transportation vehicles.
- **Require school staff and students and parents** wear a nose and mouth covering whenever possible and, for students, when age and developmentally appropriate, during the school day and anytime when present in the building and when riding on school transportation. Staff, students, and parents are expected to provide their own cloth nose and mouth covering, for example, a mask, bandana, or scarf. Patients with a pre-existing respiratory condition may be exempt with a doctor's note.
- All drivers will record passenger attendance on school transportation to allow for contact tracking in the event of exposure to COVID-19.
- Additional cleaning and decontamination of school buses will occur after each morning and afternoon route.
- The drivers will open windows at least 1” to allow for ventilation and use their discretion as to how many windows to open to provide fresh air to all passengers, even in cold or inclement weather.

1.6 Building Entry

- All people entering the school building are required to wear and are expected to provide their own nose and mouth covering, for example, a mask, bandana, or scarf. Patients with a pre-existing respiratory condition may be exempt with a doctor's note.
- All people entering the school building are required to be temperature and symptom-check screened.



- All people entering the school building must adhere to 6 feet social distancing and grouping requirements.
- Parents/visitors do not enter the building and drop-off and pick-up at the exterior door.
- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and outside group building entry will be limited or eliminated.

1.7 ***Suspected and Confirmed Student or Staff Member Positive COVID-19 Cases in the Gilpin County School Community***

- Gilpin County Public Health (GCPH) is notified immediately and person(s) are confined to isolation Med Room when:
 - High temperature identified during check
 - Self-report or observed COVID-19 symptoms during check
 - Self-report or observed becoming ill while at school
 - Students will be assessed and either released to return to class or parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up student immediately
 - Send staff member home
 - Ill students or staff members will not be able to stay at school in the health room or in the isolation med room.
 - The Med Room and the Health Office are two different rooms and locations. The Health Office will function as normal. The Med Room is the Isolation Room.
- Immediate review of aforementioned case(s) with GCPH. **The *In-person Teaching and Learning Program* operates on a one day at a time schedule. The trigger for the need to consider a school +4 10 calendar day quarantine and a return to remote distance learning for a grade, group, or school(s) is when there is a confirmed COVID-19 positive test result of a student or staff member (Orange highlighted text added 11/6/2020).**
 - Follow CDPHE/GCPH protocol ~~October 1, 2020 revised~~ **Revised December 15, 2020** [*Cases and outbreaks in child care and schools*](#) for contact tracing and implement +4 10 calendar day quarantine for the class, grade, or school when warranted.
 - Each COVID-19 positive test case will be reviewed and assessed individually by GCPH.
 - **REVISED December 15, 2020:** CDPHE supports the use of these quarantine scenarios in Schools:
 - 1) A 7-day quarantine period with a negative test conducted after day 5, or
 - 2) A 10-day quarantine period.
 - **General +4 10 calendar day Quarantine Guidelines:**
 - The trigger for the need to consider a quarantine for a group/cohort/close contacts is reviewed and assessed when there is a confirmed COVID-19 positive test result of student or staff member in the school building.
 - Although school personnel cooperate and collaborate with GCPH for contact tracing, GCPH determines who the members of the 10 calendar day quarantine group are and when the quarantine begins and ends (*Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021*).
 - Determine the day symptoms were present and determine when was the COVID-19 positive student or staff's last contact date with group/cohort/close contacts.
 - If COVID-19 positive student or staff member symptoms presented 48 or more hours after last contact with the group/cohort/close contacts quarantine is not warranted.



- Identify group/cohort/close contacts membership of the COVID-19 positive student or staff member.
 - **Preschool and Elementary**-due to grade-level grouping of students and staff, the 14 10 calendar day quarantine group will likely be the grade level.
 - **MS/HS**-the quarantine group will likely be determined by contact tracing of close contacts.
 - Close contacts are students/staff who have been within 6 feet or less of the COVID-19 positive individual for more than 15 minutes.
 - In the November 20, 2020 update, CDPHE also added to the contact tracing detail that teachers and other school staff members:
 - who wore an N95 face mask concurrent with a face shield or other [medical grade eye protection](#);
 - who consistently maintained 6 feet or more distance from students and other staff members; and
 - who were also behind desktop plexiglass;
 - were less likely to be considered in the quarantine group when contact tracing is conducted. And, staff members would also be less likely to contract the virus from students and colleagues at school.
- The 14 10 calendar day quarantine begins on the last day the COVID-19 positive student or staff member was a member of the cohort/group.
- Parents of the quarantine group/cohort/close contacts notified.
- Communicate an instance(s) of confirmed COVID-19 case(s) to the Gilpin County School Community.
- Due to confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) of COVID-19 positive individual and quarantine group/cohort/close contacts, students and staff will not be identified.
- The quarantined staff and students return to **100% Remote Distance Teaching and Learning Program** for 14 10 calendar days.
 - Suspend extracurricular activities when a school or the District implements a 14-10 calendar day quarantine/school closure due to COVID-19.
 - During a 14 10 calendar day quarantine, clean and disinfect the areas the quarantine group occupied.
 - Monitor, evaluate, and collaborate with GCPH during the quarantine time and plan the return of the quarantine group/cohort/close contacts to the school building (**Blue highlighted text added 10/9/2020**).
- Individual students and staff members may initiate their own quarantine period when they have been in close contact and exposed to someone **outside of the school building** with a COVID-19 positive test result. A close contact occurs when an individual is within 6 feet or less of someone with a COVID-19 positive test result for 15 or more minutes.
 - For example, when a student has a parent or sibling who tests COVID-19 positive, the student is a close contact and initiates his/her own 14 10 (**Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021**) calendar day quarantine period and stays home from school.



- All potential instances are reported to GCPH and the school and GCPH begin to monitor the student or staff member.
- Does the student or staff member display any symptoms? When symptoms are present, Public Health guidelines recommend that the student or staff member be tested for COVID-19.
- When a student or staff member has a confirmed COVID-19 positive test result, determine when the last contact the student or staff member had at school. The contagion period is 48 hours. Has the student or staff member been in contact with grade/cohort/close contacts in the last 48 hours or less from the time when the COVID-19 positive student or staff member displayed symptoms?
 - *If yes*, Public Health conducts contact tracing for a school grade/cohort/or close contact group/school(s) +4 10 calendar day quarantine.
 - *If no*, a school group/cohort/close contacts +4 10 calendar day quarantine is not warranted.
- Is the student or staff member asymptomatic? Public Health guidelines recommend that the student or staff member be tested for COVID-19 after 7 days from the day of exposure.
- Student or staff member COVID-19 testing cannot be required by the school or GCPH. The decision to test is a patient/doctor decision.
- Since students and staff will likely be notified after school has dismissed or early in the morning of a school day that remote distance learning will be in effect due to a +4 10 calendar day quarantine for a grade/cohort/or close contact group/school(s), students should bring Chromebooks home at the end of each school day (*Orange highlighted text added 11/6/2020*).

1.8 ***Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) COVID-19 Testing***

- In collaboration with Gilpin County Public Health Department (GCPH) the District plans to offer PCR mouth swab testing in the Health Office in January to students with signed parental permission and staff who:
 - Are actively displaying symptoms identified at school.
 - Have been exposed for 7 days to a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual.
 - Are currently in a school quarantine group (at the District's discretion, depending on other group variable considerations).
- Students and staff who display symptoms at home will not be tested at school. When sick, stay home and schedule a test at GCPH.

1.9 ***CDPHE Six Status Dial Levels***

- The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) amended the three COVID-19 status levels into [six status levels](#) that went into effect on November 20, 2020. CDPHE added **Level Orange-High Risk**, **Level Red-Severe Risk**, and **Level Purple-Extreme Risk**. Under the new levels, Gilpin County status since November 23, 2020 is **Level Orange**.
- **In-person Teaching and Learning**
In-person teaching and learning will continue as an option until a school closure is warranted by:
 - Two confirmed positive COVID-19 individuals in a school (PS-5 or 6-12) will trigger a 10 calendar day quarantine and students and staff (*Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021*) in



either PS-5 or 6-12 will revert to remote learning. *The quarantine was formerly 14 calendar days, but has been reduced by CDPHE to 10 days for PS-12 schools.*

- Insufficient number of teachers and substitute teachers to effectively conduct in-person teaching and learning in one or both schools.
- If Gilpin County changes in status from **Level Orange** to **Level Red** or **Level Purple** and all students in PS-12 will switch to 100% Remote Distance Teaching and Learning.
- Gilpin County **Level Red** or **Level Purple** will be monitored and reviewed. Schools will return to in-person learning when the county status is **Level Orange**.
- Parents and students may transition to remote distance learning at any time by notifying the principal.
- When a school is closed, all students and staff in the school, PS-5 or 6-12, will revert to 100% Remote Distance Teaching and Learning until In-person Teaching and Learning can resume.

1.10 Deep Cleaning and Disinfecting

- GCSD contracts with Omni Pro for Custodial Cleaning Services
 - Common Areas (restrooms, clinic, kitchen preparation surfaces, locker rooms, weight room) and high-touch Common Area surfaces (door handles, handrails) are disinfected daily.
 - Classroom Surfaces (counter, table, and desk tops; door handles) high-touch surfaces are disinfected as student groups change in the classroom and at the end of the school day.
- Custodial Cleaning Service applies EPA approved disinfectant to surfaces that kills COVID-19.
- Custodial Cleaning Service uses electrostatic sprayers with EPA approved disinfectant that kills COVID-19.
- Each staff member has cleaner and disinfectant to periodically clean the high touch-surfaces for use in student occupied spaces.

2. Teaching and Learning 2020/2021

2.1 Teaching and Learning Program Offering Options

GCSD began the school year on August 10, 2020 with a **100% Remote Distance Learning Program** with Gilpin teachers. Students who participated in the **Gilpin Online Learning Program**, an online course of study for students in grades K-12 started courses on September 2. The District reintroduced the **In-person Learning Program** and the **Hybrid Learning Program** on September 21. The **Hybrid Learning Program** ended on October 8.

Teaching and Learning Programs: All three of the following learning program choice options will be available to parents and students on October 12 and will continue into the spring semester that begins on January 5, 2021:

- **In-person Learning Program** in the school building 4 days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m to 4 p.m.
- **Remote Distance Learning Program** will be provided by Gilpin teachers synchronously in real time with remote learners and in-person peers 4 days a week Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m to 4 p.m.
- **Gilpin Online Learning Program** is offered for K-12 students beginning January 6 through May 19, 2021(Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021).



GCSD is continually monitoring the status of COVID-19 daily and will assess the pandemic and its effect on the teaching and learning programs on a monthly report basis. The principals are responsible for the operation of the three aforementioned teaching and learning programs. Parents with questions, comments, and feedback about teaching and learning may contact your principal: hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us or adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us

2.2 **Teaching and Learning Program Delivery Assumptions for the 2020/2021 School Year**

- Public Health Epidemiologists have been accurate predicting the presence and consequent spread of COVID-19.
- Epidemiologists predict that when influenza A and B season returns, COVID-19 will become widespread again. Although the flu season is year-round, flu cases peak between December and February, and flu cases begin presenting in growing numbers in November and can last as late as May.
- When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed, then contact tracing is implemented, and a ~~14~~ 10 calendar day quarantine is issued for a class(es) or grade(s) or school(s) throughout the 2020/2021 school year. There is no guarantee that a student or staff member will not become infected with COVID-19 during in-person learning.
- Closing the school PS-5 or 6-12 building for a ~~period of time~~ 10 calendar days when two or more positive COVID-19 cases are confirmed in the school community is in the best interest of student and staff health, resulting in a return to 100% remote distance learning.
- These assumptions are subject to change, especially if a vaccine can be developed. Epidemiologists originally projected vaccine development and distribution to be 12 to 18 months away. Today, 12 months for a vaccine is closer to reality as November 2020 is the projected available vaccine target.
- When the November 2020 vaccine available target date is met, COVID-19 vaccine distribution and inoculation is predicted to be completed by November 2021.
- Given the COVID-19 situation as we know it today and the probability that in-person teaching and learning may be limited in scope and time, and fluidly moving from in-person learning to remote distance learning is likely, the best plan moving forward is to invest time and energy into planning and perfecting remote distance learning for teaching and learning when teachers are in-person with students.
- Although COVID-19 vaccines administered now through summer 2021 along with increased COVID-19 testing availability will mitigate the spread of the virus, epidemiologists predict wearing masks and social distancing will remain in place through most of 2021 (*Magenta highlighted text added 1/5/2021*).

3. **School Health Services**

3.1 **Health Office Operation**

- The Health Aide Connie Oliver coliver@gilpin.k12.co.us and School Nurse Wendy Moore wmoore@gilpin.k12.co.us will report to and collaborate with GCPH on any COVID-19 related student and staff cases.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will operate the isolation Med Room and facilitate student and staff health care, communicate with parents, and arrange immediate student pick-up by a parent.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will ensure students who are ill will not be permitted into the health room. The health room is reserved for health plan administration of “well” students.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will provide all required staff health training either remotely or in-person adhering to social distancing requirements.



- The Health Aide and School Nurse will coordinate with and compile data from principals on the daily check of temperature and COVID-19 symptoms.
- All student medication will be on-site in the health room and available to the student any time the student is at school.
- All student Health Plans will be updated and amended due to COVID-19 if required by a physician.
- Current student immunizations are required for the student to be present in the school building. The Health Aide and School Nurse will facilitate immunization compliance.
- The School Nurse will complete health reviews and attend student plan meetings either remotely or in-person.
- The Health Aide and School Nurse will facilitate hearing and vision screening compliance (*Orange highlighted text added 11/6/2020*).

3.2 *Mental Health Support*

- Parents or students may make a confidential contact for Mental Health Support at any time. School Counselor [Kim Cobb](#) and School Psychologist [Cassandra Marschall](#) are available to students, and School-Based Therapist [Jennifer Kinsey](#) is able to meet with students and their families.
- The pandemic and the change in routines is a stressful time for everyone. Concerns about COVID-19 generate anxiety. Adults may follow this guide when talking with children: [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) A Parent Resource](#)
- The COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting new normal of doing school work at school and at home has created stress and tension between students and parents. Families may find some components of restorative justice principles helpful at home for de-escalating conflicts, addressing a child's inappropriate behavior, and providing meaningful consequences to modify behavior. The [Restorative Practices and Discipline Parent Handbook](#) promotes inclusiveness, relationship building, and problem solving.
- Mental Health Resource Organizations:
 - [Jefferson Center for Mental Health \(JCMH\)](#) – Offers a full range of services and resources to support the mental health of children, youth and families. Call 303-425-0300.
 - [Colorado Crisis Services](#) provide free, confidential, professional and immediate support for any mental health, substance use or emotional concern, 24/7/365. Call 1-844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255 to speak to a trained professional.
 - [Safe2Tell](#) Make a report. Make a Difference. Call 1-877-542-7233. Anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family or your community. Open 24/7, 365 days a year to take reports.
 - [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) Provides 24/7, free and confidential support for anyone experiencing distress and suicidal thoughts. Additionally, the organization offers prevention and crisis resources. Call 1-800-273-8255.
 - The pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for all aspects of our life. Students, parents, and staff need to provide a learning environment at home and at school that is free of stress and fear. [The American Red Cross website has coping strategies](#) for students, parents, and staff (*Orange highlighted text added 11/6/2020*).



3.3 *Culture and Climate*

- The Counselor, Psychologist, and School-Based Therapist will support staff in providing students with best practices ([CDE's Guidance for Well-being and Connectedness](#)) around trauma informed classrooms and schools. A focus will be placed on supporting a positive climate and culture that acknowledges universal trauma care strategies that are best for all students. Best practice guidelines will be available in order to support students who may need more support. The school Health Team will provide ongoing consultation to staff.
- The school Mental Health Team supports staff in providing students with best practices with teaching and learning that embeds Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into instruction.

3.4 *Other Assistance*

- The Food Bank is open for food pick-up on Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 4 pm on the northside of the Justice Center on Dory Hill Road. [Gilpin County Food Bank](#).
- Contact [Gilpin County Human Services](#) for help with child care, medical, heating, and other assistance.

4. **Gilpin Technology**

4.1 *Student, Parent, and Staff Technology Support*

- Ensure that all students and staff members have a working device. Contact [Mr. Rothenberger](#) for technology support.
- Connecting with students, parents, and staff for solutions for reliable internet access. Complete the [Household ISP Support](#) form to determine a possible internet access solution.
- Collaborating internally with the Gilpin School Community and externally with cell phone and internet providers to problem-solving internet access solutions so students and staff members have reliable internet access to complete their work remotely when that cell service is available.
- Supporting students, parents, and staff when utilizing the core digital learning tools and existing system applications.
- Modifying existing tools and applications to meet the needs of remote distance and hybrid learning environments.
- Researching and implementing new effective learning tools and applications to increase capacity, offer flexibility, and provide secure and protected student and staff data.
- Provide training on core digital learning tools and existing system applications.

5. **Conclusion**

The principals are responsible for the administration and implementation of the three teaching and learning programs and for social distancing expectations. Parents with questions, comments, and feedback about teaching and learning and COVID-19 protocols may contact your principal:

- Contact Elementary Principal Heather Huntoon hhuntoon@gilpin.k12.co.us
- Contact Secondary Principal Alexis Donaldson adonaldson@gilpin.k12.co.us