



## COVID Guidance (Grades TK-5)

As with all COVID mitigation and planning for the ever-evolving pandemic environment, guidance has changed significantly over time. We are proud that all Gridley Unified District Schools have been open to in person instruction since October 19, 2020.

We are confident that our ongoing procedures will allow our students to continue to safely remain in school and receive the education they deserve — *IN PERSON*. Our goal is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and provide students with an onsite education to enhance their lives including social connections, physical activity, and mental health benefits. The American Academy of Pediatrics reinforces *“the negative effects of missing in-person educational time as children experience prolonged periods of isolation and lack of instruction.”*

GUSD will always monitor local conditions, collaborate with Butte County Department of Public Health, and regularly review updated guidance from the local, county, and state agencies. This plan is based on the California Department of Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools effective March 12, 2022

We have carefully considered the safety measures needed for all schools, staff and students alike.

## GUSD Meets the California Department of Education Checklist for In Person Schools

Revised for March 14, 2022 Pursuant to CDPH Guidance of March 12, 2022

# Cleaning & Disinfection

*GUSD Maintenance and Operations takes pride in the care and cleanliness of our facilities and has been working since the onset of school closures on additional sanitizing and disinfecting practices.*



**PURPOSE:** In consideration of the guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for school campuses, including classrooms, workspaces, outdoor spaces, and playgrounds, McKinley Primary and Wilson Elementary will implement the following procedures:

## **PROCEDURES:**

- Staff will have access to cleaners to address high-touch surfaces as needed.
- Cleaning of classrooms and other spaces used during the day will occur daily.
- Disinfecting wipes and spray bottles with paper towels will be accessible to all classrooms and offices for disinfection as needed.
- Staff have been trained in safe and appropriate use of disinfectants.
- Busses will be cleaned daily.
- Students are encouraged to bring water in refillable containers. We will be installing bottle fillers at most of our sites in the coming weeks.
- HVAC filters will be changed with increased frequency and additional air filtration units are being placed in each classroom.
- Additional disposable PPE is available as needed at each school site, for student and staff use.
- Additional disinfection will occur in spaces known to have been occupied by individuals identified as positive COVID cases.

# Transportation

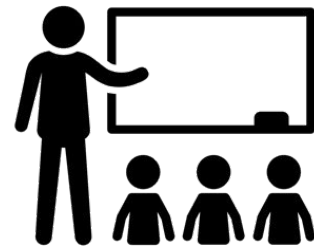
*The GUSD Transportation department takes pride in the care and cleanliness of our busses and have been maintaining effective sanitizing and disinfecting practices.*



## PROCEDURES:

- Masks are no longer required for riders on GUSD busses and vans.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry to bus.
- The busses will be cleaned daily with special attention to high touch surfaces.
- Eating and drinking are prohibited on the bus at all times.
- Any busses will be sanitized following identification of a positive case of COVID among the students on that route.

# In-Person Learning



*GUSD believes that classroom-based instruction and the structure of attending school on a daily basis is critical to our students' educational and social-emotional well-being.*

**PURPOSE:** Distancing within classroom guidance has been changed and minimum distance is not required, rather it is recommended as space allows. GUSD will provide an in-person learning environment implementing the following distancing procedures:

## **PROCEDURES:**

- Parents/Guardians should screen students for symptoms before coming to school every day.
- Classes in TK-5th remain together for the most part in the same classroom for instruction throughout the day to the extent possible.
- Students and staff will have access to face coverings should they choose they want to wear one.
- Students will still have assigned seats where applicable for the potential of close contact notifications.
- Classrooms will be cleared of unnecessary furniture or clutter to allow for more space for students within the classroom.
- GUSD encourages use of outdoor learning on all campuses when appropriate.
- Assigned outdoor spaces will also be used for busses, drop-off, and pick-up
- Special Education services will still be provided in accordance to established IEP and educational goals.
- Parents/visitors have the opportunity to participate in school activities with administrative consent. Regular/Ongoing support of volunteers that are unvaccinated need to participate in the district provided weekly COVID testing program.
- Classroom doors and windows will be opened to the extent possible to allow for ventilation and air flow unless weather conditions would not make that appropriate.

# Alternate Learning Options



*Although we believe that classroom-based instruction is still the best option for students from an educational, social, and emotional standpoint, and that our campuses will provide a safe learning environment for our students, we are aware and were prepared for students and parents who were not ready to physically return to school daily. We also wanted to ensure that we had options for students who may be medically fragile or have compromised immune systems. GUSD has options to meet the needs of these families. Students with disabilities will require an IEP decision to be placed in the appropriate educational setting.*

## Short-term Independent Study

- For students who plan to return to regular, classroom-based school but will be out for 3 or more days due to illness.
- Must have a qualifying reason (COVID-19 self-isolation qualifies) and may require physician documentation.
- Cannot be extended past two weeks (10 school days) without Superintendent's approval.
- Requires a minimum absence time of three school days to qualify.

## Home Learning Program

- This was available for families that were not ready to physically return to school daily. **Home learning will not be an option offered by GUSD for the 2022-23 school year.**
- Consists of parent/guardian delivered instruction from California State Adopted Curriculum provided by GUSD and supported by a GUSD certificated teacher.
- Students are required to “check in” remotely on a daily basis.
- A certificated teacher is available daily through regular office hours for consultation.
- Teachers will provide some instruction through live and recorded lessons for both parent and student benefit.

# Face Coverings



**PURPOSE:** To help prevent the spread and exposure to Covid-19, to establish a face covering protocol to be followed for faculty, staff, students and third parties (both parents and vendors) on our campuses.

## PROCEDURES:

- Under the current California masking guidelines, **face coverings are strongly recommended** per California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidelines. Students and families retain the ability to choose what they prefer.
- Under CDPH guidelines published March 12, 2002, face coverings are recommended for all students K-12 on campus unless medically exempt (see below).
  - All campuses and busses have cloth and disposable masks available for students when desired for use. All staff will have access to N95 masks.

# Campus Logistics and Movement Within The School



**PURPOSE:** To reduce areas of congestion and alleviate overcrowding on our campus the following procedures will be implemented:

## **PROCEDURES:**

- Student drop-off will occur at assigned entry points to prevent large gatherings. Parents are not allowed on campus for drop off. School staff will monitor each gate and facilitate the handoff of students from their guardians.
- Students who arrive late will be directed through the main office.
- Pick-up will occur outside in socially distanced designated areas to avoid large gatherings.
- Student supervision before and after school is limited to drop-off and pick-up times. PLEASE be prompt.
- Schools will be limiting outside guests on all campuses to approved volunteers and individuals/agencies providing direct services to our students.

# Healthy Hygiene Practices



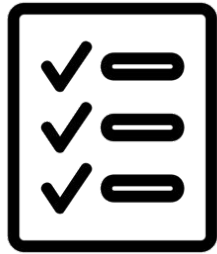
**PURPOSE:** To assure proper hygiene and avoid transmission of COVID-19 the following procedures will be implemented.

## **PROCEDURES:**

- In compliance with Butte County Department of Public Health guidelines and the guidelines of the State of California Department of Public Health, teachers have received training from our district nurse and through Keenan Safe Schools in the importance of proper hygiene protocols to reduce transmission of COVID-19.
- Regularly scheduled hand sanitizing and hand washing will be taught, practiced and reinforced throughout the school day.
- Both McKinley Primary and Wilson Elementary have handwashing stations and hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the campus.
- Students and staff will use ethyl-based sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.
- Students, especially younger children, will be taught to use a tissue, the proper use of tissues to wipe their nose, and to cough/sneeze into a tissue or their elbow.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms and used under faculty and staff supervision.
- A staggered schedule will be implemented for handwashing routines by grade level to reduce overcrowding.
- Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and staff.
- All students will be encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day, however drinking fountains are available.
- Classroom doors and windows will remain open unless in extreme weather conditions.



# Health Screening for Students and Staff



*The COVID-19 virus had a profound impact on our nation and our community. We now know that our youth are least affected and generally recover quickly. We also know much more about how the disease spreads and for how long a person may be contagious. With that knowledge, we are well prepared for what to do when a student or staff member exhibits symptoms or becomes positive.*

**PURPOSE:** To provide for the screening of students and staff to identify potential exposure to COVID-19 and avoid the spread of COVID-19. GUSD will take all steps necessary to screen individuals for signs and symptoms of illness when on our campuses. These steps are:

## **PROCEDURE:**

- Parents should screen their children for symptoms of illness in the morning at home before leaving for school. Special attention should be paid to signs/symptoms related to COVID-19, which include: fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, uncharacteristic fatigue, sore throat, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, nasal congestion, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, or headache.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to use the [CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker](#):
- If a student is (a) is COVID positive, (b) is being tested for COVID, or (c) an ill person with symptoms of COVID, they **must stay home**. Parents should call the District Nurse at (530) 682-6613 for additional guidance.
- If a student has been kept home and symptoms resolve they may return to school when they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine. Students also need to be free of vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours without the use of medicine to suppress these symptoms.
- Children who exhibit any of these symptoms while at school will be sent home immediately (parent or guardian is to arrive within 30 minutes of call). Student will return to school when cleared by a physician or School Nurse.
- Employees are responsible for self monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.



## Health Screening for Students and Staff, cont.

**PURPOSE:** To provide for the screening of students and staff to identify potential exposure to COVID-19 and avoid the spread of COVID-19. GUSD will take all steps necessary to screen individuals for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 when entering our campuses. These steps are:

### PROCEDURE:

- Students who present with fever and respiratory symptoms will be masked and sent directly to the Health Office on campus where they will be evaluated by a nurse or healthcare assistant.
- Student will be held in an isolation area in the health office until a parent or guardian comes to pick them up.
- Teachers and staff who present with fever and respiratory infection symptoms will be sent home immediately. The district nurse will follow-up with a phone evaluation.
- Students sent home for exhibiting symptoms or awaiting test results will be provided independent study opportunities while they are out.

# Identification and Tracing of Contacts



*The principals at each school site will communicate with our district nurse and designated BCPH liaison, regarding possible cases and exposure to COVID-19.*

## GUSD COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN:

**Situation #1:** COVID-19 Symptoms in a student or staff member (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing, etc)

### **Action:**

- If symptoms cannot be explained by another known condition (seasonal allergies, asthma exacerbation, history of migraines, etc.), then COVID will be considered.
- In these cases, we will:
  - Send the student/staff member home
  - Refer them for COVID testing
  - Home isolation until the following three criteria are met:
    - 24 hours fever free without the use of a fever reducer, **AND**
    - 5 days have passed from the start of symptoms, **AND**
    - An improvement in respiratory symptoms
- Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where symptomatic person spent significant time, if tested positive.
- School/classroom remains open

**Situation #2:** A student or staff member was in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (Close contact: a person who is less than six feet from a confirmed positive case for more than 15 minutes).

### **Action:**

- Notify parent of student regarding close contact.
- Monitor for symptoms.
- Recommend testing should symptoms present.
- Student and staff can remain in class.

# Identification and Tracing of Contacts, Cont.



## GUSD COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN:

**Situation #3:** Confirmed positive for COVID-19 in a student or staff member

**Action:**

- District nurse notifies the local public health department and begins internal contact tracing.
- Infected individual is excluded from school for 5 days from symptom onset or test date whichever occurs first.
- Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time.
- Classroom and school remains open.

**Communication:** School staff and parent notification of a known case

For all remaining questions regarding symptom management, please contact your local health provider.

# Staff Training and Family Education



*GUSD will provide a digital copy of this plan and digital education resources regarding COVID-19 to families regarding physical distancing, enhanced sanitation practices, proper use, removal and cleaning of face coverings, how COVID-19 is spread, home screening practices and identifying signs and symptoms of COVID-19, as well the importance of testing and contact tracing.*

**PURPOSE:** Limit the spread of COVID-19 by teaching staff and families the most important mitigation protocols and providing up to date, reliable information.

## PROCEDURES:

All GUSD staff members have attended COVID-19 training that includes:

- Sanitation and disinfection practices (Keenan Safe Schools)
- Physical distancing guidelines
- Masking recommendations
- Screening practices
- Proper handwashing techniques
- How COVID-19 is spread
- Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick, including the importance of not coming to work if staff members have symptoms or if they or someone they live with have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention
- The employer's plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school.
- The employer's plan and procedures to protect workers from COVID- 19 illness.

GUSD will provide families with resources on our website

- To [assist](#) parents and caregivers on deciding when to seek testing or medical care
- To screen students each day before school including temperature checks (thermometers are available at each site)
- To reinforce school policies to keep students home if symptomatic
- [Guidelines](#) to follow if exposed to COVID-19

# Communication Plans



*GUSD will adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act to maintain confidentiality of students or staff members in its communication with stakeholders regarding the possibility of COVID-19 exposure.*

- Staff and families will self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 10 days. This is in accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19 and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations relating to privacy and confidentiality, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- GUSD will notify staff, families, and the public of school closures and any restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure (e.g., limited hours of operation).
- Due to the HIPAA, in the case of a positive COVID case on a campus, **only those families of students who have been identified through contact tracing will receive notification.**