

Glendale Elementary COVID – 19 Addendum to Student Handbook

The science surrounding COVID-19 continues to emerge, therefore, the information contained in this Addendum is subject to change.

Daily Symptom Monitoring and Reporting

It will be the responsibility of each student/family to screen their student prior to arriving at school or the bus stop each day. Symptom screening includes taking your child's temperature, monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms, and recent exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or for suspected exposure. If any statements on the daily checklist below are true, the student must be kept at home and the student's health care provider and school nurse should be contacted. If your student has asthma or allergies, please ensure each condition is well controlled and your child takes their medications before school so they don't present with COVID-like symptoms. Any student who has symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home.

If any of the following are true, the parent/guardian must keep the student at home and contact the student's medical provider **AND** the school nurse by phone or email COVID@gsd1.org

- Student has **2** of the following symptoms: sore throat, runny nose/congestion, chills, headache, nausea or vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhea, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell **OR**
- Fever of 100.4 °F or greater, new onset of cough, or shortness of breath unrelated to a pre-existing condition **OR**
- Has had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 or to someone who is under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19 within the past 14 days **OR**
- Student has tested positive for COVID-19

At the start of the school year, parent/guardian will need to sign the COVID-19 School Health & Safety Agreement acknowledging their commitment to monitoring and keeping their student home when sick and to seeking appropriate medical care. We will continue to monitor guidance from the Pa Dept. of Health and revise our health screening practices accordingly. If you do not have a health care provider, please contact the school nurse.

Return To School Guidelines

When any of the above symptoms are noted, but COVID-19 testing was not completed, and there has been no known direct exposure to someone with COVID-19 or someone under quarantine for exposure, the student must:

- ✓ **Be cleared by health care provider to return to school (documentation required) OR**
- ✓ Stay home for ten days from symptom onset **AND** at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) without the use of fever reducing medication, **AND** improved respiratory symptoms.

Students who have had symptoms and have had direct exposure to someone with COVID-19 will be considered probable cases and will be excluded from school until release from isolation criteria has been met.

When tested and determined to be **COVID-19 negative**, the student will remain home until:

- ✓ Fever free, diarrhea free, vomiting free for 24 hours without medication and improved respiratory symptoms **AND**

When tested and determined to be **COVID-19 positive**, the student will remain home until all of the following are true:

- ✓ at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms **AND**
- ✓ until fever free without the use of fever reducing medications for 24 hours **AND**
- ✓ symptoms are improving.

Please notify the school nurse if your student tests positive for COVID-19 by phone or email to COVID@gsd1.org.

Symptom Monitoring at School

In addition to parent/guardian monitoring at home as noted above, temperatures will be checked as needed throughout the day and students will be evaluated by the school nurse as necessary. Any student who is sick is expected to stay home, and any student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 while in school will be sent home immediately.

If a Student Develops Symptoms While at School

Students who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be assessed by the school nurse. If student presents with 2 COVID-like symptoms he/she will be sent home immediately. Parent will be called and student will be placed in isolation to prevent potential exposure to others while waiting pickup. Any student who goes home ill must be dismissed through the nurse's office.

There is a designated area for parents to pick up their child outside the gymnasium doors. There will be signage on the door. When arriving to pick up your child, simply ring the doorbell and you will be connected with the nurse. Please bring photo identification.

Quarantine

When under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19, the student must quarantine for 14 days and may return to school after the quarantine period as long as no symptoms have developed during that time. Quarantine may be shortened to 7 days if student has not developed any symptoms and has a negative RT-PCR or antigen test between day 5 and 7, and negative results are provided to school upon return. If a family member or someone in the home has COVID-19 or is under quarantine, please call the school nurse.

Travel Quarantine

If student/family have returned from any state under which there is a mandated quarantine period, GSD will follow quarantine/testing guidelines as detailed on the PA travel page

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

Underlying Medical Conditions

Any student who has an underlying medical condition such as, but not limited to, asthma, diabetes, cancer, organ transplant, or are taking immunosuppressant medications, should consult with their healthcare provider about returning to in person schooling prior to the start of school.

Aerosolized Medications

Aerosolized medications such as nebulizer treatments for asthma, will not be administered at school. Please ask your child's doctor about providing your child with an inhaler with spacer if appropriate. Nebulizer treatments will need to be given at home.

Emergency Contact Information

It will be very important for parents/guardian or emergency contacts to be able to be reached by phone at any time and that transportation be available for a sick student to be sent home. Please be sure to list alternate emergency contacts with available transportation in the event you cannot be reached.

Attendance

PA attendance laws are very strict about the number of days a student can be absent from school. However, if a student is sick and provides medical documentation of an illness, or is able to continue working from home (virtually or through paper copies) those days will be excused absences during the pandemic. Please stay in touch with the school so we understand the situation and can assist you and your student.

Response to Positive COVID-19 Test

Consistent with PA regulations for communicable diseases, if an individual in a school is confirmed, suspected, or has been in contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19, the District's school nurse will notify PA DOH and receive direction on next steps that could include, and are not limited to, whether to quarantine the class or school; providing necessary information for DOH to conduct contact tracing; and when individuals can resume school or work. Additionally, consistent with both notification requirements for other communicable diseases and legal confidentiality, the school District will follow PA DOH regulations for exposure to a communicable disease.

Confirmed COVID-19 Case in School

Upon notification of a positive test by the PA DOH, the school nurse will assist the PA DOH with contact tracing and request guidance.

Upon notification of a positive test by a parent, the school nurse will notify the PA DOH and will assist with contact tracing.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a key strategy used by the health department to prevent the further spread of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19. When notified that a staff member, student, or approved visitor in a District building has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the District, through the school health office, will coordinate with the Cambria County DOH on COVID-19 reporting and response efforts.

COVID-19 Testing

For guidance on appropriateness of COVID-19 testing and further instructions call the PaDOH Hotline (1-877-PA-Health), available 24/7.

This information is based on current guidelines related to COVID-19 and is subject to change as additional information becomes available.

Academic

- The Glendale School District will continue to support students with acute or chronic health conditions. Short-term absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Administration. Long-term absences will be evaluated for criteria appropriate for medical leave or other potential medical accommodations.

Items from Home

- Please try to limit nonessential items brought in from home such as balls for recess, toys, dolls, cars, trading cards, stuffed animals, etc. to limit the potential spread of any germs. Items that are considered essential are coats, hats, gloves, backpacks, lunchboxes, water bottles, books, homework, band instruments, or school issued technology devices. If you have a question regarding this, please first direct it to the classroom teacher.
- No homemade food items can be brought in to share with other students during the pandemic. If a student would like to share a store bought item for an event such as a birthday or holiday celebration, please contact the classroom teacher.

Water Bottles

- Students are highly encouraged to bring in a personal water bottle to be used throughout the day. Please be sure that this bottle is labeled with your student's name on it. Water fountains in the hallways will be turned off, but bottle fillers will be operational as well as classroom water fountains that can be supervised by classroom teachers. Soda and sugary drinks are not permitted for this purpose.

Visitors in the Building

- Due to the potential for Covid to spread, no nonessential visitors will be permitted in the building. This includes parents. If a parent or family member has something that needs to be dropped off, office staff will meet you at the door to retrieve that item. If you are dropping off a student after 7:55 am, you will speak to office staff through the intercom and we will sign the student in with the specific reason for the tardy (doctor, dentist, etc.). If you are picking up a child early (before 2:45) for dismissal, you will speak into the intercom and the child will be escorted out to you.

Student Dismissal

- Parents or family members picking up elementary students for dismissal are asked to follow this NEW procedure:
 - Send in a note stating parent name, student name(s), teacher name(s) and dates for that week or month, that the student will be getting picked up. We ask that you do not change this after it is sent in as it is extremely difficult to do for dozens of students.
 - A daily list of students being picked up will be generated and distributed to K-6 teachers. At 3:00 all students on this list will be escorted to the high school front lobby where they will wait for their parent or family member.
 - If there is an emergency and a parent needs to pick a child up when no note was sent in, please call the elementary office 687-4263.
 - Parents/family members may start to arrive as early as 3:00 where they will park in two lanes directly in front of the high school office doors and stay in the vehicle. Cards will be distributed

with student names on them that will need to be displayed in the front/right side window so school personnel can identify which students are being picked up.

- Once school staff see your vehicle we will assist your child out to meet you at your vehicle. School staff will not assume responsibility for seat belts or car seats as that will be the responsibility of the driver.

Masks/Facial Coverings

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has announced and confirmed that the Pennsylvania mandatory mask order WILL apply to all public schools and any child over the age of 2.

Students are permitted to remove their face coverings (e.g. masks and face shields) only when eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart.

If a medical condition exists where wearing a mask would be prohibitive, documentation from the student's physician is required and must be followed up with a 504 plan or included within student's IEP.

Students must wear their mask at the bus stop, while riding the bus, and during the school day. Any student who does not have a mask on will be provided with one. Any student refusing to wear a mask will not be permitted to stay in school. Instead, a parent or family member will be called to pick up the student. Any second offense will result in a parent meeting to discuss virtual/cyber school options.

GSD has purchased both masks and face shields (shields for elementary students K-2) for those who need one. Each student not having their own mask from home will be given a maximum of two surgical masks weekly.

There are no specific requirements for masks or facial coverings other than they must be school appropriate and not keep the student from breathing or seeing properly. This is subject to change as further guidance comes out.

COVID-19 Resources

CDC website: Protecting yourself and what to do if you are sick. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Back to School Planning: A guide for parents, guardians and caregivers

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/decision-tool.html>

Back to School Planning: Checklist to guide parents, guardians, and caregivers

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html>