

Gasconade County R-1 School District Re-Entry Plan



Board Adopted
July 9, 2020

INDEX

Introduction	Page 1
Education Options	Page 2
Daily Operation	Page 2
Technology	Page 4
Schedules	Page 4
Open House	Page 4
Extra & Co-Curricular Events	Page 5
Attendance	Page 5
Personal Protection Equipment	Page 5
Special Services	Page 5
Transportation	Page 5
Department of Health Contact Tracing and Quarantine Guidelines	Page 6
Health Services	Page 7
Health Screenings	Page 7
Positive Cases	Page 8
Self Screening Protocol	Page 10
Custodial & Maintenance	Page 10
School Closure	Page 11
Trauma	Page 11
Professional Development	Page 12

Introduction

The world is experiencing a health care emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. For the Gasconade County R-1 School district, this pandemic began to change how we educate students on March 18, 2020. At that time we closed our doors due to concerns that COVID-19 could negatively impact the health of our students, staff, and community. With this closure came a change in how educational material was presented to students. Although we could not educate our students in the traditional way, we were able to offer a variety of online learning opportunities as well as paper packets for those without internet access.

Over the last few months, there has been a significant amount of research completed and dialogue between the school and health care providers about how best to resume educational practices. Throughout this time, we have also sought and obtained feedback from our community. We know our community is eager for students to get back to school as quickly and safely as possible. We also know our community expects a plan that has been well thought out and keeps student safety at the forefront of decisions.

As we prepare for a school year knowing the COVID-19 pandemic may have a significant impact on education, the priorities we hold are:

- Providing safe learning environments for our students and staff
- Assuring that all students receive a quality education

The Gasconade County R-1 School District will be accessible to all students through either in-person or online classes. Students and families may choose the format that works best for them. Please note that once a decision has been made for one version or the other, the decision is final for at least one semester.

[NOTE: It is understood that choice assumes the COVID-19 conditions and the Missouri and [County Health Department](#), as well as [CDC guidelines](#), allow for schools to reopen.]

PK - 12 Grade Re-Entry Plan

Education Options:

As a district, we have sought input from our patrons, staff, and health care agencies prior to formulating the re-entry plan. As part of the plan, we have identified two ways in which a student can receive their education and still be part of Gasconade County R-1. The two means of educational delivery are in-person or online learning.

Online Learning:

If a family chooses online learning for their student(s) it is requested that you notify the building principal as soon as possible of your intent. However, per policy, all requests shall be made no later than Friday, August 7, 2020. After contacting the building administrator, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss what is involved with getting registered for the virtual classes. Request made after August 7, 2020 will be considered on a case by case basis.

In-person:

In-person classes will be taught using traditional approaches to education. However, Google Classroom will continue to be a part of the delivery model in grades 4-12 on a daily basis. Grades PK-3 will use Google Classroom when appropriate. If a temporary school closure would be required, all classes will transition instruction to virtual learning (Google Classroom) and would continue until school resumes in-person classes.

- Students who begin in-person classes will transition to virtual learning with their teacher in the event of a school closure.
- Should a student be required to quarantine they will be transitioned to a virtual learning platform for the time they are quarantined. They will then transition back to in-person classes once they are able to return.
- Students who enroll in online classes at the start of the year will remain in the online version regardless of school closure.

Daily Operation

It should be noted altered restrictions may be made at any time based on changing and current information.

General Expectations

- All parents teach healthy habits to children before school begins including:
 - Educate your child on viruses and the signs of illness
 - Appropriateness of hand washing, good hygiene and social distancing

- Teach your child how to wipe down surfaces at home, as they will also help disinfect their desks at school
- Teach your child how to appropriately wear a mask and when to use them (if desired)
- All teachers will reinforce healthy habits to children including:
 - Educate students on viruses and the signs of illnesses
 - Make time in the day for good hand washing
 - Have students maintain personal supplies versus communal supplies and if communal equipment is used they are disinfected after use
 - Have students wipe down desks daily
 - Teach students how to maintain social distancing
- Measures to decrease students congregating in one location
 - Students will be required to stay with their assigned class and not co-mingle with other classrooms as much as possible. (Primarily at Elem & MS levels)
 - Restroom breaks will be scheduled by classroom, outside emergencies, with good hand washing after use.
 - Students will sit at individual desks when available, otherwise will be distanced as much as possible
 - In locations where students line up, teachers will help promote social distancing
- Minimizing Building Access - Building access will be limited to students, staff, and contracted employees who require access. Those entering the building may be screened by being asked questions as well as having a temperature check.

To minimize the need for people to be in the building other than necessary employees and student, the District requests the following:

- Parents are encouraged to call ahead if they have a need to visit the school and if entering the building to limit their visit to the main office.
- Parents will not be allowed beyond the school entryway/main office, outside emergency situations or special circumstances approved by the building administrator. If someone is approved to go beyond the school entryway/main office they must wear a mask at all times.
- Parents will not be allowed to visit the classroom or eat lunch with their child

- Visitors, outside necessary employees providing student instruction and student services, will not be allowed in the building beyond the main office or designated area. If someone is approved to go beyond the school entryway/main office they must wear a mask at all times.
- For our little Bearcats entering pre-school and kindergarten we understand the importance and assurance you want to provide in getting your child to his/her classroom. However, given the current state of our pandemic we want to take all necessary precautions to keep our students and staff safe. We understand the first day of school and if you wish to walk your child to the front door then return to your vehicle we appreciate your cooperation in doing this safely.

With the exception of bus riders and walkers at Hermann Elementary, all students and visitors should enter the school buildings through the front doors.

Technology:

Technology will be provided to all students K-12 if a short term school closure is required. If a student does not have internet access, they may notify their building office staff and a hotspot will be provided if available. Students are responsible for any damage to equipment that is sent home.

Schedules:

Schedules will be designed to limit the interaction between students as much as possible. At the elementary and middle school buildings, breakfast will be a grab and go model and consumed in the classrooms. Lunch schedules will be set up so one class/grade will be going at a time when possible. Recesses will be scheduled so only one grade level will be on the playground at a time.

Open House:

An open house will be held for PK - K on August 12th with staggered times for students to attend. This method is in an effort to help reduce the number of individuals in the building at one time.

- PK - K Open House Scheduled by last names (August 12th)
 - A-H 4:30 - 5:15; - I-Q 5:20 - 6:05; - R-Z 6:10 - 7:00

The Open house for 1st-12th grades will be held on August 20th with staggered times as well. The times that students are asked to go to each building are listed below.

- 1st - 12th Open House Scheduled by last names (August 20th)
 - Elem: A-H 4:30 - 5:15; I-Q 5:20 - 6:05; R-Z 6:10 - 7:00
 - MS: I-Q 4:30 - 5:15; R-Z 5:20 - 6:05; A-H 6:10 - 7:00
 - HS: R-Z 4:30 - 5:15; A-H 5:20 - 6:05; I-Q 6:10 - 7:00

Extra & Co-Curricular Events:

During a student’s semester of participation, the student shall be enrolled on a full-time basis at Hermann High School and Herman Middle School. Policy IGD and IGD-AP(1) will be followed throughout the re-entry phases.

Attendance:

Good attendance will continue to be encouraged as in years past. However, perfect attendance rewards and incentive programs will be changed to high attendance (95% or higher). This is being done in an effort to re-enforce the strong need for students who are sick to stay at home rather than come to school.

Personal Protection Equipment:

Students and staff may wear personal protection equipment such as masks/face coverings. However, wearing this equipment is not a requirement to attend school.

- Students and staff may bring their own mask or one will be available upon request.

Special Services:

- All special education students will continue to be provided with instruction as outlined in their IEP Goals.
- Each student’s case manager will work with families to ensure a child’s IEP is being met.

Transportation

Bus routes will follow the same pickup and drop off locations as in years past. Social distancing is not practical on a school bus. Therefore, due to COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, it is recommended students provide their own transportation if possible.

The transportation department will initiate the following precautions to help enhance safety measures for riders.

- The driver will assign seats to riders.
 - Each bus’s list of assigned seating will be maintained so it can be provided to the Health Department for contact tracing if needed.
- Household family members will be seated together as much as possible.

- Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer as they enter the bus.
- Masks will be encouraged but not required to ride a bus. Masks will be available for the driver as well as students. Students may also supply their own masks.
- The bus driver will disinfect the bus after each route.

Unloading: We strive to avoid congestion as the students unload buses. We will stagger when buses unload to the extent possible.

Loading: We will strive to avoid congestion as the students load buses. We will stagger the time students load buses in the afternoon as appropriate.

Department of Health Contact Tracing and Quarantine Guidelines

- **Definitions**
 - CASE
 - Someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
 - CONTACT
 - Someone who has had close prolonged contact with a case (closer than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes)
 - CONTACT TRACING
 - The process of tracing and monitoring contacts of cases
 - ISOLATION
 - Cannot leave for at least 14 days from date of onset of symptoms and the last 3 must be symptom free
 - For someone who is ill (cannot leave isolation until symptom free for at least 72 hours without the assistance of medication)
 - QUARANTINE
 - For someone who has had contact with someone that is ill (normally 14 days) from last known contact with case
- **Contact Tracing**
 - Interview positive case
 - Gather information about close contacts (closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) anyone the case may come into contact with for 2 days prior to the date of onset of symptoms
 - Interview close contacts and place in quarantine
 - Follow-up interviews with close contacts
 - A negative test result does not change the quarantine practice of a close contact
 - People who are secondary (those who are in contact with someone who has been in contact with a positive case) may be called “contacts of

contacts” are not quarantined or interviewed until such time as the primary contact person tests positive or becomes symptomatic. An example would be Person A (tests positive), Person B shows no symptoms but, was in contact with Person A closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes is quarantined. Person C has been in contact with Person B then Person C is considered the secondary contact and no further action would be taken.

- **School District Role**

- Partner with and assist the County Health Department during contact tracing
- Implement strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Communicate information, when possible, remaining within state and federal guidelines.

Health Services

- Health Services staff providing health care will be wearing masks while assessing students and staff. Protective eyewear will also be provided to nurses to wear during the assessments.
- Health Services staff will continue to keep a log of visits to the nurse. The log will record persons seen and include the type of symptom information such as fever, new cough, or sore throat. Due to student privacy issues, this information is not public. However, information may be shared with the Gasconade County Health Department as appropriate.
- The Gasconade County Health Department will provide guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected of being COVID-19 positive.

Health Screenings:

When a student is sent to the nurse, they will be asked a series of questions about their health. Some of the questions include:

- Have you traveled outside the area?
- Have you been around anyone tested for COVID-19?
- Do you have a new loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches?
- Do you have chills, a cough, a sore throat, a headache?
- When was the last time you took any medicine for your fever?

When a student is symptomatic of COVID-19 they will be sent to the nurse just like any other sick child would be. If the student has a fever of 100 degrees or more they will be sent home. Students must be fever free with no medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Once it has been determined a student should go home rather than stay at school, parents/guardians will be contacted. If they are not able to be reached, all contacts listed in Infinite Campus will be contacted. If emergency contacts are unable to be reached, siblings will be asked if they know how parent/guardian may be reached. If no one is able to be reached, a home visit may be conducted. Students will not be allowed to ride the bus home.

While waiting for parents/guardians to pick a student up; the student may be asked to wear a mask. If asked to wear a mask, it will be provided by the school. Those entering the building to pick up the sick child in question may also be asked to wear a mask as well.

Upon returning to school, students are to report immediately to the nurse's office to be evaluated before going to class. At that time, the nurse will do another health screening and ask a variety of questions prior to determining if they are ready to go back to class.

Positive Cases

- Gasconade County Health Department will be contacted of any positive cases and they will implement contact tracing. The school district will work closely with the health department to complete contact tracing.
- Superintendent will send a letter to all parents in the district letting them know of the confirmed case. However, particular information such as name, grade, and teacher will not be shared. The district will work with the Gasconade County Health Department on what particular information can be shared.
- If multiple students and/or staff test positive for the coronavirus the district will evaluate the need to close for a period of time not less than 2 weeks.
- Once a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus, they will not be allowed to return to work until they are symptom-free for five school days and have completed their quarantine.

In the event of a Suspected Case of COVID-19

In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, the following protocols will be followed:

SCENARIO

- An employee or student doesn't feel well and visits the school nurse.
- The nurse determines symptoms may be COVID related.
- The employee or student will be temporarily separated from others and will be asked to wear a mask. "Masks will not be forced."

EMPLOYEE

- The employee will be asked to contact their primary healthcare provider and the provider will arrange for testing if they believe it is necessary.
- If the employee tests positive for COVID, the provider that ordered the test will call the employee with a positive result.
- The Health Department will also contact the employee and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing). If the employee resides in a county other than Gasconade, then that county's Health Department will contact the employee.
- The Health Department will ask the employee about all close contacts the employee had from the 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the employee began isolation measures.
- The Health Department will direct the individual and any other person at possible risk of being infected with what to do.

STUDENT

The school nurse will contact the parent. When the parent arrives, the nurse will encourage the parent to have the child tested. The nurse will offer to assist the parent with making phone calls to the healthcare provider.

- The healthcare provider will arrange for the student to be tested if they feel it is COVID related. If the student tests positive for COVID, the healthcare provider will contact the parent.
 - The Health Department will then contact the parent and school.
 - A risk assessment (contact tracking) will be completed.
 - The parent will be asked about any close contacts the student may have had from 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the student began isolation measures.
 - The Health Department will direct the parent on what the student and any other person at possible risk of being infected should do.
1. If the employee has been told to self-isolate, they should contact their direct supervisor/principal. If a student has been told to self-isolate, the family will be requested to call the school. The school will check to see if there are siblings or other family members in Gasconade County R-1.
 2. The principal/supervisor will contact the superintendent. The superintendent will advise the administrative team and the Board of Education.
 3. Superintendent will consider initiating the following COVID Protocols:
 - Consider closing the building for 24-48 hours for a deep clean.
 - Communication with the health department will continue for additional guidance.

- Official communication to the Board of Education, families (as appropriate), community, and media (if appropriate). Communications will come from the superintendent.
- The building principal will follow-up with the staff member or family of the student.

Self- Screening Protocol

- **The following questions and protocols should be conducted prior to students coming to school or staff coming to work:**
 - Do you have a new onset of any of the following not explained by another known condition (note: the CDC may update symptoms at anytime). If the answers are “yes” to any of the screening questions, they should not report to work/school.
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Vomiting or diarrhea
 - Been in close contact in the past 2 weeks with an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - Take temperature and refrain from coming to work/school if temperature is 100 or higher
 - Follow health department guidelines if someone within the household is officially quarantined or has been confirmed positive of the COVID-19 virus

Custodial & Maintenance

Gasconade County R-1 will maintain adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and tissues throughout each school. The custodians and maintenance staff will ensure stock is adequate to meet the needs of the district.

Staff will clean frequently-touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, doorknobs, stair railings, countertops) with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products. Computer safe disinfectant methods will be used for computers and keyboards.

Classrooms will be stocked with cleaners to be used by teachers to wipe desks and high touch surfaces.

Hand sanitizer will be placed in high traffic areas for students and staff to utilize when hand washing is not available.

Water fountains will be transitioned to touchless water bottle fillers. Students will not be able to drink from fountains but will be given a cup if they do not have a water bottle.

School Closure

The Gasconade County R-1 School District will do everything possible to stay open throughout the 2020-2021 school year. However, when dealing with a pandemic, situations can arise that require a school to close.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19.
- Student Absenteeism
 - When it is not economically feasible to keep the school open.
- Teacher/Staff absenteeism
 - When the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drops below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment.
- To protect public health and safety
 - When advised by the Governor or state and local health officials.

The Gasconade County R-1 School District may shut down if absenteeism is in the range of 30-40 percent for two consecutive days. Instruction would then transition to virtual learning.

If it is necessary to close school, parents will be notified as soon as possible through school messenger and social media outlets.

Trauma

The importance of assuring that our student and staff mental health needs are adequately met is vital to the re-entry plans. COVID-19 has caused a great deal of stress for everyone since it started in early 2020; staff and parents are encouraged to be mindful of the stress students may be under as school resumes. If changes are noticed, we ask that you have a conversation with the child. If you struggle with the conversation or need assistance, our school counselors and social worker are available

to support you and your child. A referral upon request can be given for providers & resources.

Resource to help navigate the mental health side of COVID-19.

Helping Children Cope - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/for-parents.html>

Professional Development

At Gasconade County R-1 we know that professional learning is a key factor for a strong educational system. Therefore, professional learning opportunities will continue for staff throughout the summer as well as the 2020-21 academic year. All measures to provide a safe learning environment for our staff will be taken.

On August 5, 2020, professional development opportunities will be provided to staff at Hermann High School. A comprehensive list of sessions being offered will be sent to staff no later than July 15th.