

Updated COVID-19 Policy & Procedures Proposal for 21-22 School Year

Basic Overview

With newly updated CDC guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools along with the guidance of the NH Department of Public Health and Human Services, NH DPHHS, Gate City expects to begin school this Fall in a full, in-person return for the 2021-2022 school year. We are hopeful that our return will be closer to a pre-pandemic return with minimal mitigation measures in place. However, as we are so acutely aware of, there are many factors subject to change that could impact this proposed plan and the procedures put in place to mitigate COVID-19 transmission. Gate City will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 transmission rates and will implement changes as directed by the guidance and conditions around us. **Gate City reserves the right to update these policies as needed and assures prompt communication with families regarding any changes.**

Remote Instruction

In accordance with NH Executive Order, Gate City will continue to offer a remote program for students and families with medical conditions that impact access to in-person learning. Please contact the administration if you require access to our remote program.

Gate City will maintain the ability to shift to remote instruction for any period of time necessary. For example, every teacher will have an active Google Classroom. Students and guardians will be asked to familiarize themselves with the online learning tools.

Cleaning Procedures

Staff will maintain cleaning procedures in accordance with CDC and NH DPHHS guidance. Gate City will continue to utilize air purification systems in each classroom and office and maintain these systems in good working order. Filters will be replaced regularly.

Hand Hygiene

Gate City will continue to promote and educate our students on the importance of hand hygiene. Sanitization stations will continue to be made available for students and staff, with regularly scheduled hand washing times for grades K-3.

Masks

During times when transmission rates are low, masks will be **primarily** optional for students and staff. However, there may be times when other mitigation measures, such as maintaining a social distance of 3 feet, are not feasible. In this case, students may be required to wear masks for periods of time during their school day (i.e., group work that requires close proximity, lab activities, utilizing shared manipulatives, etc.).

Masks will be optional for students while participating in outdoor activities.

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Social Distancing

Gate City will maintain 3 ft of social distancing when feasible, per CDC guidelines. When social distancing is not feasible, staff may implement other mitigation strategies to ensure the safety of students and staff. Some of these strategies include utilizing outdoor space and/or mask usage.

Illness & Absences

Development of any of the symptoms/criteria identified in our screening process will result in the student or faculty being dismissed for the day and the individual will be required to follow quarantine guidelines (see below). Even if development of symptoms presents as mild, GCCS will require the dismissal of the student/faculty member. Exceptions to this requirement may be made given provision of a doctor's note that documents a previously reported history of condition(s).

Quarantine Guidelines

Students and faculty will be required to quarantine for 10 consecutive days if they answer **YES** to the symptom/criteria outlined in our screening procedure. Students and faculty may bypass the 10 consecutive day quarantine with a 5 day quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test result. Bypass of the 10-day quarantine is dependent on the student or faculty continuing to be free of symptoms. Proper documentation of a negative test must be provided to Gate City Charter School prior to admittance back to school. If a family opts to remain remote for the 10 day quarantine, student(s) must remain free of symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours prior to returning to school. If a student requires dismissal from school, GCCS may require their sibling(s) to also be dismissed and quarantined while pending COVID-19 test result(s).

As always, Gate City is eager to answer any questions and address your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us as we continue to navigate this situation together.