



Gardiner Schools Covid-19 Plan



Gardiner Schools

Covid-19 Plan

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The Gardiner School Covid Task Force has met with the goal of producing a plan that provides the quality education that the Gardiner community has come to expect while at the same time ensuring the safety of students and staff. These plans are produced with guidance from “The Governor’s Plan For Reopening Safe and Healthy Schools For Montana”, the Office of Public Instruction’s “Reopening Montana Schools Guidance; Putting Montana Students First”, direction from the Montana School Board Association, the Montana High School Association, and the Park County Health Department.

This plan is subject to change at the guidance of the aforementioned entities, as well, school administration has the ability to adjust this plan in emergency situations.

Remote learning is always a choice during this declared emergency. Parents have the choice to individually decide on using remote learning or not based on their own private circumstances. However, we ask that the choice not be made randomly from week to week based on personal issues. It is recognized however that as circumstances evolve in regards to the overall covid situation, or illness within a home, choices may need to change and we will honor those choices.

This plan has broken the school operations into four main components; Transportation, Facilities, Instruction, and Extra Curriculars.

Transportation

Gardiner Schools runs two routes (Mammoth and Valley) the Valley route extends from Point of Rocks north of Yankee Jim Canyon where highway 89 crosses the Yellowstone River to Trail Creek. The Mammoth route covers both upper and lower Mammoth. The Valley route services roughly 50-60 (56+ current count) students daily while Mammoth services approximately 25-27(35 current count)students. Several students that ride the Valley route, or come to school with their parents in the morning, ride the Mammoth route in the afternoon. As well, in the winter additional students ride the Mammoth route after school to basketball or ski practice.

Stage 1 (school is in session, with remote learning for those not comfortable or able to return).

- Additional route buses (1 each) will be used to meet suggested guidelines.
- **Masks/Face coverings will be required on all route buses.**
 - Students who violate the seating arrangement and/or mask rule will be given a warning with parents contacted and after a second violation will be removed from the bus.
- Bus seats will be disinfected after each bus route daily.
- Students will have assigned seats on assigned buses.
- The Valley Route will be limited to riders who live on the Valley Route
- Buses will load back to front, with the first riders on the bus seated in the back on morning routes.

*****We recognize there may be times when seating arrangements will have to vary due to lack of bus drivers and only being able to run 1 bus per route at times. When 1 bus is used, distancing and seating recommendations are still in place.**

Stage 2 (school is remote, no students in school)

- No buses or reimbursement

Facilities

The recommended custodial staff size based on building size for Gardiner Schools is 2.0 FTE custodians. For over a year we have been operating with 1.5 FTE custodians. A recommendation for a 1.0 FTE hire is being made to the board on June 29th. We will retain the .5 FTE increasing our custodial staff to 2.5 FTE custodians. The custodial staff has been able to perform a deep clean using the closure time in the spring to get a head start on regular summer cleaning. Full custodial staff will allow all classrooms to be cleaned daily.

Instruction

Remote Learning

Teachers have developed remote learning plans identifying platforms they will use in expectation of some students not returning. For practical purposes teachers are not able to meet remotely only with small groups of students to give instruction while having a classroom of students in school. Therefore and unlike in the spring, new instruction will be streamed live from the classroom to remote students. This will cause remote students to need to log in and

participate in live classrooms more often in order to receive the needed instruction. For example Junior High and High School students will log into every classroom every day for attendance purposes. Elementary teachers will create schedules so parents and students know when new instruction is taking place for each subject area. Remote students will be counted for attendance purposes the same as on site students. Streaming will provide the opportunity for remote students to fully participate in their education.

Classroom sizes and enrollment numbers in the elementary school would allow students to be spaced 6 foot apart in desks.

The only HS/JH classes requiring alternative settings are English which is using the library and Ag which is using the shop. If the need arises, the Multipurpose Room is still available.

Cohort groups consisting of K-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12 will be created and will observe the following guidelines.

No volunteers, parents for lunch, or outside use of the school. Limit the presence of outside people to those who deliver curricular materials.

Classroom Guidelines

In order to provide the best possible education while protecting students and staff from Covid-19, the following guidelines will be in place for Gardiner School classrooms.

- Classrooms will use individual desks where practical.
- Desks will be spaced 6 feet apart.
- **When students are closer than 6 feet apart or when individuals are moving around the room, everyone in the classroom will wear cloth face coverings and close interactions will be kept under 15 minutes.**
- Regular hand washing routines will be established in grades K-6
- **Hand washing routines will be established for grades 7-12 before breakfast, lunch, anytime food is consumed, after P.E. and any group activities. Additionally, hand sanitizer is available in the Junior High/High School classrooms and hallways.**
- Hand hygiene was taught as part of SEB curriculum at the start of school in grades K-12.
- Students will be encouraged to clean desks/surfaces regularly throughout the day.
- Some HS/JH classes will be limited enrollment based on physical space available or will be taught in an alternative location when possible.
- Cloth face coverings will be worn during passing periods or when in the hallway.
- Students will have their own classroom supplies. Sharing will be discouraged.
- **Gardiner School Staff members are recording when they have a close contact with a student/ staff member during the school day and during extra-curricular activities (criteria as determined by public health: generally, 6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more)**
- **Students and staff members with respiratory symptoms or who appear ill will immediately wear a cloth face covering and be directed to the front office for assessment. No**

students or staff members are permitted to remain on campus with symptoms as identified in the "Outbreak Response Protocol K-12".

- Seating charts are established for each class.

Hallways

- JH/HS students and staff are wearing cloth face coverings during passing periods.
- Elementary students and staff will wear cloth face coverings walking through the hallways.

Lunchroom Guidelines

- Students will sit 6 feet apart at the lunchroom tables (24 kids)
- K-4 will get their food K-2 will eat in the cafeteria, and grade 3 will take it to their classroom where they will eat.
- Grades 5-6 will get lunch when K-4 lunch is over and eat in their classrooms.
- Masks will be worn in the cafeteria line.
- Salad bar will be served to students or all food will be served from behind the counter.
- JH will eat in the cafeteria and when done eating will go outside or socially distance in the hallway. HS will eat in their 4th period classroom if they choose to stay on campus. While getting food and returning trays, they will wear cloth face coverings. Students will be allowed to socialize while exhibiting physical distancing in the classroom.
- Students in classrooms with sinks should wash their hands before leaving the classroom for lunch.
- HS will go to lunch 3 minutes early and get their lunch to take to their classroom.

*****Breakfast; is eaten in the classrooms*****

Recess

- Recess will be monitored to keep students moving and active and to avoid students grouping without following physical distancing guidelines.
- Recess will be modified so that K-4 and 5-6 will be grouped for recess to stay within their cohort.

PE

- Follow Park County Health guidance given for PE
 - Group size will be limited to 50 individuals (including coaches) not to exceed 5 groups of 10 individuals.
 - Activities will be managed with consideration of CDC Covid-19 guidelines.
- Implement activities that reduce the amount of physical contact and proximity.
- Hands will be washed after class.

Band

- In instrument groups where a mask cannot physically be worn the mask should be worn over the chin and replaced during periods where the student is not playing..
- Students should sit all facing the same direction, back to front to minimize potential exposure.
- Trombones should have an additional three feet of distancing making their space 9x6. The player should be seated three feet in front of the back line, leaving an additional six feet in front of them due to the extended nature of the instrument and slide that can be in extended position.
- Spit valves should not be emptied on the floor. Recommend using a bucket to catch the contents of the spit valve and discard.
- Bell covers will be used for instruments where bell covers can be used.

Senior Considerations

Many seniors take either an hour of Teachers Aide, a Senior Study hall for those taking an “academic course load” and a 3.0 or higher GPA, and or several hours of School To Work. Our seniors graduate with 28 credits, the school requirement is 25, and the state is 20. In order to maintain cohorts and not intermingle high school students with elementary students, and in light that businesses and/or the park and Xanterra may not want students for the School To Work program, consideration should be given to the schedules of seniors. Montana Digital Academy is restricting each school's enrollment as well.

- Teacher’s Aide will be modified so that the students do not go to the elementary school classroom.

Extra Curriculars

MHSA has made the commitment that activities will begin in the fall. Those activities will have guidelines that all member schools will have to follow.

- Cloth face coverings are worn on buses.
- Travel destinations will be evaluated the week of a trip to determine Covid risk.
- Bus stops will be limited and will exclude stops for food, food should be packed and transported by the team.
- Home games will be live streamed when we get the capability.
- Allow home team parents and immediate families (members living in the house of the player) to attend
- Allow away teams to have 2 tickets per player
- Seat home fans on one side of the gym (home parents/families will sit on the bench side of the gym) and away on the other

- Immediately clear the gym and have parents meet their students outside after the game
- **Masks will be worn except when eating or drinking. Egregious violations will be handled and determined by the administrator on duty.**
- Encourage social distancing as much as possible
- No concessions, to keep congregating down

*MHSa or Park County Health Department restrictions will apply and will supersede any stages determined by the school.

https://www.mhsa.org/news_article/show/794594

****Students without a valid medical reason requiring a 504, or students not on and IEP who do not attend school on site will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Students with a 504 or on and IEP will be considered on an individual basis.****

Sick Protocol

- We will use the "Outbreak Response Protocol".
<https://covid19.mt.gov/Portals/223/Outbreak%20Response%20Protocols%20K-12.pdf>
- In case of a sick student at school:
 - If a teacher suspects a student is ill or is showing symptoms of Covid 19 the student will be instructed to put on a cloth face covering if they are not already wearing one, contact the front office that a student is on the way, and direct the student to the office.
 - **Symptoms identified in the "Outbreak Response Protocol" will result in exclusion from onsite schooling.**
 - Student and care provider will put on masks immediately.
 - Student will be isolated in a designated space until pickup by parent.
 - Care will be given including a temperature check.
 - Parents will be contacted for pickup.
 - Parents will need to take supplies home to prepare for remote learning.
 - **Parents will be expected to pick up their student within an hour or have an emergency contact pick them up.**
 - Please update your emergency contact information with the school.
- In case of a positive Covid test result:

- Park County Health Department will be notified by the state lab.
- Park County Health Department contacts the school.
- The school will give a general announcement of a positive case to the school community via Infinite Campus if so directed by Park County Health Department. Student and grade level will remain anonymous.
- **Close contacts will be notified by the Park County Health Department about their possible exposure and with further guidance.**

Please notify the school of any prolonged absences that may occur due to isolation, quarantine, or sickness

If a positive case of Covid occurs within the school system, we will contact the Park County Health Department for their recommendation.

Resources:

- Governor's Reopening Plan: <https://www.docdroid.net/ZDqQzhF/education-final-1-pdf>
- OPI's Reopening Plan: <https://www.docdroid.net/420BhWl/reopening-mt-schools-guidance-final-pdf>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/media/4029958/preliminary-testing-report-7-13-20.pdf>
- https://www.mhsa.org/news_article/show/794594
- <https://www.childrencolorado.org/49eee6/globalassets/community/reopening-schools-during-covid19.pdf>
- <https://covid19.mt.gov/Portals/223/Outbreak%20Response%20Protocols%20K-12.pdf>

