



Gardiner Schools Covid-19 Plan



Updated 1/22

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”, and direction from the Montana School Board Association, the Montana High School Association, CDC recommendations, 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.

School Administration will monitor the county’s positivity rate and cases per 100,000, then, with guidance from the Park County Health Department, make adjustments to this plan accordingly.

Gardiner School Covid Plan is reviewed each month at the regularly scheduled board meeting. Per CDC guidance, the Gardiner School is implementing a “layered prevention strategy” to continue to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.

Remote learning will no longer be a choice for students unless pre-approved by administration and will be treated on a case by case basis.

Masks are required when a minimum of 6 feet of social distance can not be maintained through Jan. 20th 2022.

This plan has the school operations into six main components: Transportation, Facilities, Instruction, Extra Curriculars, Sick Protocol, and Resources.

Transportation

Masks will be required on all school buses pursuant to federal law.

Facilities

Facilities will return to regular cleaning operations with special attention given to high traffic areas such as restrooms, cafeteria, and kitchen areas.

Instruction

Remote Learning

Remote Learning will be on a case by case basis and will need pre-approval from the administration.

~~Classroom sizes and enrollment numbers in the elementary school would allow students to be spaced 3 feet apart in desks, IF classes are not combined. A combined classroom, depending upon grades combined, may require masks if 3 feet of spacing can not be maintained.~~

Volunteers will be allowed if they are either willing to share their vaccination status and/or wear a mask. Parents will still not be allowed for lunch as the cafeteria will already be at capacity with just students and teachers. Use of the school for outside groups will be considered on a case by case basis.

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 to allow students to be 3 feet apart while seated.
- Desk arrangement where all students are facing the same direction versus each other is preferred.
- 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 will be taught as part of the curriculum at the start of school in grades K-12.
- 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 two or more mild symptoms unless testing negative for Covid.
- Students should have access to a mask at all times.

Band

The following guidelines will be in place for the band program:

- Students should sit all facing the same direction, back to front to minimize potential exposure.
- Trombones should have additional distancing.
- Spit valves should not be emptied on the floor. It is recommended to use 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.

Physical Education

PE should keep students spaced when not physically active. Outside activities during good weather conditions are encouraged.

Lunchroom

~~No masks will be required and students will be encouraged to socially distance. Elementary classes will eat by class.~~

Hallways

~~No masks will be required as students are in the halls due to the short duration and small exposure to any one student.~~

Recess

There will be no restrictions on recess.

Extra Curriculars

MHSA has no current restrictions for any activities.

- Home games will be live streamed.
- Encourage social distancing as much as possible, home fans will sit on one side of the gym while visiting fans will sit on the other.

Sick Protocol

Students who have had a fever, have vomited, or have had diarrhea must be free of those symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school.

- In case of a sick student at school:
 - If a teacher or school staff suspects a student is ill or is showing multiple mild 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.
 - The student and the care-provider will put on masks immediately.

- The student will be isolated in a designated space.
 - Care will be given including a temperature check.
 - Parents will be contacted to either give consent for testing or to pick the student up from school.
 - A negative test for a student with mild symptoms will allow the student to stay in school as long as the student appears able to function normally i.e. no resting of head on desk, excessive coughing, or sleeping in class.
 - **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:
 - **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.

12/21 Update:

Gardiner Schools has had a comparable number of Covid cases to last year at this time. No classes or large groups of students have had to have been quarantined and on site learning has continued. Covid continues to be an agenda item at all monthly school board meetings as well Gardiner School met and solicited feedback from stakeholders on 12/14/21. At that time it was recognized that all students including those ages 5-12 are now currently able to be vaccinated. With no Covid cases in almost a month, and the now available vaccination for all Gardiner students no changes to the Covid plan were recommended.

Resources:

- Governor's Reopening Plan: <https://www.docdroid.net/ZDqQzhF/education-final-1-pdf>
- OPI's Reopening Plan: <https://www.docdroid.net/420BhWI/reopening-mt-schools-guidance-final-pdf>
- <https://www.nfhs.org/media/4029958/preliminary-testing-report-7-13-20.pdf>
- <https://www.mhsa.org/coronavirus>
- <https://www.childrencolorado.org/49eee6/globalassets/community/reopening-schools-during-covid19.pdf>
- <https://covid19.mt.gov/Portals/223/Outbreak%20Response%20Protocols%20K-12.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

