

Covid-19 Information

Gilbert families may have questions about the start of school as the coronavirus continues to impact our state and our community. We will review and add to our mitigation plan as more information comes forward. We have put together an easy guide of frequently asked questions to help guide your family through this difficult time. The wellness and safety of our families and students is the priority. Gilbert Community School district did an outstanding job working together to navigate this situation while students were able to learn in the process.

2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions

Mitigation Update

Updated July 30, 2021

Is the Gilbert Community School District putting COVID-19 mitigation plans in place for the 21-22 school year?

Yes. Gilbert CSD will continue to follow mitigation strategies under Iowa regulations. Sources for these recommendations include the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Association of Pediatricians (AAP) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Is the Gilbert Community School District following a Return to Learn plan for the 2021-2022 school year?

Yes, our return to learn plan includes students being in person for learning. It does not include an online option at this time. We have additional return to learn questions below.

Will Gilbert CSD require masks this year?

Due to a Iowa state law (HF847) signed by our Governor in May 2021, Gilbert CSD will not require masks to be worn by students or staff. Masks will be optional.

**Mask donations have been made. Masks are available upon request in each school office.*

Are masks required on the school buses?

No, masks will be optional on busses.

Will Gilbert CSD have a COVID-19 Dashboard on their website?

Yes, we will have a COVID-19 Dashboard that will be updated daily with positive Covid-19 case information.

When should a student stay home from school?

Students should follow [CDC guidelines of Covid-19 symptoms](#). People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough, Shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue, Muscle, or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

If my child is diagnosed with COVID-19, will they be required to stay home?

Yes, children and staff diagnosed as positive for COVID-19 are required to stay home for 10 days after their symptoms started or 10 days after a positive test if they have no symptoms. This includes those who are vaccinated and test positive.

Will parents be notified if there is a positive COVID-19 case in their child's classroom?

Yes, parents will be notified via email of a positive Covid-19 case.

- Preschool-Fifth grade families will be notified of a positive case in their child's classroom.
- Sixth -Twelfth grade families will be notified of a positive case in their child's grade level.

Parents will also have access to the Data Dashboard updated daily which will communicate when cases have increased with students and staff.

Will my child be required to quarantine if they are considered a close contact?

No, children exposed through close contacts are not required to stay home. They will be given guidance on how to self-monitor for symptoms.

What will be the cleaning procedures?

Facilities are routinely cleaned to maintain the health and safety of teachers, staff, students, and community, per [CDC guidelines](#).

- Twice per day: All door handles, railings and push bars, and any flush handles will be wiped down.
- Daily cleaning: All tables, handles, and buses.

Will parents/volunteers be allowed in school buildings?

No, we have decided to not have parents/volunteers in our buildings at this time. We look forward to changing that practice in the future.

Will guest speakers be allowed in the buildings?

Yes, guest speakers will be allowed for educational purposes. Guest speakers will be expected to follow staff and student expectations for entry to the building.

Are in-person parent-teacher meetings possible?

Meetings with teachers may be either in-person or online as the situation permits.

Where will students eat? Will it be socially distanced?

Students will eat in the lunchrooms. Following CDC guidance, physical distancing will be maximized to the extent possible within space of the lunchrooms.

Can parents eat lunch with their child?

No, parents coming in for lunch are considered volunteers and we are not going to have parents or volunteers in the buildings at this time.

When is it safe for a student to return to play sports after Covid?

We will continue to follow the McFarland Clinic Return to Play Guidelines.

1. Student athlete with mild or asymptomatic cases can start a gradual return to play at day 10 and can be cleared by physician at day 14
2. Student athletes with moderate symptoms must be symptom free for up to 24 hours without fever reduction or cold medication in order to return to activity.
3. Student athlete that tested positive and had symptoms should be cleared by a physician before starting activity, especially for those that are high risk, asthma, cardiac issues, or immunosuppressed
4. All students that tested positive with or without symptoms need to do graded exercise progression to monitor for onset of symptoms or return of symptoms
 - a. Graded exercise progression can take up to 4-5 days
 - i. Light aerobic
 - ii. Moderate aerobic
 - iii. Sport specific drills
 - iv. Full Practice
5. While the athlete is doing the return to exercise protocol if symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, fever, etc... then they will have to stop and wait for the symptom to subside and possibly retry that phase within 24 hours
6. If symptoms continue to be ongoing or returning further evaluation by a physician may be necessary
7. All students athlete must fill out a health history form
8. Student athletes that played in the fall and tested positive for COVID should be monitored for symptoms and could be possibly be referred to physician if the test was done within 4 month period
9. If a student athlete was hospitalized due to severe symptoms the student athlete must follow the Bethesda guidelines for myocarditis.

Other mitigation strategies for the 2021-22 school year:

- Lockers may be used
- Water fountains will **be used as bottle fillers only**.
- All meetings can be held face to face – consider the option of online meetings if beneficial (i.e. if it will increase participation, option for parent-teacher conferences, etc)
- Restrooms can be fully opened (don't need every other stall closed)
- One nurse's office – no separate sick-room/well-room
- Hand sanitizer will be available for students in every classroom, restroom, and common areas.
- Mitigating transitions and knowing where students have been will be a vital component of contact tracing.
- Adjusting schedules to allow/ensure hand washing before and after lunch.
- Adjusting the schedule to reduce the load on common areas and transitions for students.

Return to Learn Update

What instructional model will be used to start the 21-22 School year?

Students will be in person for learning. An online model will not be available at this time.

Is online instruction available?

At this time, online instruction is not available this year.

Will students attend school 5 days a week?

Yes, students will be in school 5 days a week.

Will the high school students have open campus?

Only seniors will have open campus this year. We will discuss later in the year if open campus will expand to juniors at semester.

Will the plexiglass barriers be used during learning and in classrooms?

Plexiglass barriers will be available on an as needed basis. We will start the year with plexiglass barriers in place at the elementary and intermediate buildings.

Will my student have recess and PE?

Yes, students will have recess and PE.

How will choir and band perform?

Choir and band will have masks as optional and instrument shields will also be optional. Our music directors will follow the guidance provided by the state of Iowa musical organizations.

A quick summary:

As of today July 30, 2021:

Masks for students and staff are optional

Teaching and Learning will be taking place 5 days a week

Online learning is not taking place in the Gilbert CSD

Physical distancing will take place when possible

We will be cleaning regularly and providing hand sanitizer in high traffic areas