



2021-2022 REOPENING PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School will be open full-time, for all students to attend 5-days per week for in person learning starting September 9, 2021.

When the 2021-2022 school year begins, school will look much like it did when the last school year ended in June of 2021. Face coverings will still be required and social distancing will be maintained when possible. It is our number one goal to keep students and staff safe and physically present in school.

1. Temperature & Questionnaire Screening

GMU will not be requiring health screenings. GMU encourages families to be mindful of indications that their children may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, to seek testing when such symptoms are present and to keep students home if exhibiting symptoms.

Temperature checks will be done daily in Elementary classrooms during homeroom and mid-day before recess.

Temperature checks will be done daily in MS/HS classrooms during homeroom and in the cafeteria at lunch time.

Temperature checks will be done daily by coaches and advisors before athletics and extra-curricular activities.

2. Face Coverings

When teachers, staff, and students consistently and correctly wear face coverings, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct face covering use is especially important indoors and in crowded settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, cloth or disposable face coverings that cover both the mouth and nose (i.e. homemade, sewn, quick cut & disposable masks that cover mouth and nose).

All students, staff, parents/guardians and visitors must wear face coverings in instructional buildings regardless of vaccination status at all times. Masks breaks for students will be designated by each teacher. When outdoors, masks are not required.

Students and staff who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a medical condition will require documentation from a physician. GMU administration will make decisions regarding students and staff who cannot tolerate face coverings due to a mental health concern or a developmental disability on a case-by-case basis.

GMU will continue to obtain and maintain an adequate quantity of personal protective equipment (PPE) used for school safety purposes.

3. Social Distancing

Maintain at least three to six feet of physical distance, wherever possible, between students within classrooms, physical education, and music. If students are engaged in singing or playing a wind instrument, at least 6 feet of distance between students is recommended. In physical education, ensure any contact due to activities is quick and not for extended periods of time. When outdoors, masks are not required.

4. Contact Tracing and Quarantine

School districts must continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to DOH. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days from date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic. Consistent with CDC guidance, students in the PK-12 indoor classroom who are within at least three feet of an infected student with masking are excluded from the definition of close contact and not required to quarantine. (DOH concurs with CDC guidance which recommends that fully vaccinated persons who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested three to five days after exposure.) Close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 which do not fall in the exception detailed below must quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms through the 14th day. Below is the CDC exemption for PK-12 students in indoor classroom setting:

Exception: In the PK–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within three to six feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both students correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

It is recommended that schools should continue to assist the DOH with contact tracing. Any students who begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should remain home and seek testing.

5. School Schedules

All classes are in person instruction five days a week from 7:50 am – 3:00 pm.

6. School Buses and School Vehicles

DOH concurs with existing CDC guidance that all students and adults must wear well-fitting masks while inside a bus, regardless of vaccination status. There will be assigned seats, mask wearing and no social distancing on buses and school vehicles. Families will be grouped together. There will *not* be bus notes; what bus a student rides to school, they will ride home. Ventilation and alternate window/aisle seating can also help reduce risk of transmission.

7. Breakfast/Lunch

Students in grades PK-3 will have breakfast and lunch delivered to their classrooms.

For breakfast, student bus riders in grades 4-12 will be released from the bus at 7:48 am to the cafeteria to get a grab-and-go breakfast and go to their classroom/homeroom.

Students in grades 4-12 will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Grade 4 eating lunch by themselves in the Elementary and MS/HS cafeteria; Grades five and six eating lunch in both the Elementary and MS/HS cafeteria at the same time; grades 7-12 will have 3-20 minute periods to each lunch in the Elementary and MS/HS cafeterias.

Tables and desks will be cleaned after each lunch!

8. Cleaning

Tables and desks will be cleaned after breakfast and lunch. There will be disinfectant spray and wipes in each classroom for teachers to wipe down at their discretion. Classrooms and buses will be sanitized daily.

Encourage hand washing and the use of hand sanitizing.

9. Management of Ill Persons

Any student or staff member with a fever greater than 100°F and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection should not be present in school.

Students and staff with symptoms of illness must be sent to the health office. Ill students and staff will be assessed by the school nurse (registered professional nurse, RN) or medical director. If a school nurse or medical director is not available, ill students and staff will be sent home for follow up with a healthcare provider. The school nurse or medical director will assess individuals for chronic conditions such as asthma, allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions that may present the same symptoms as COVID-19, but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat.

Students with a temperature or signs of illness will be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area for an evaluation, and possible COVID test. Staff will wear protective equipment when assessing the student. Staff who are ill with COVID 19 symptoms at work should notify their supervisor, leave the building and follow up with their medical provider.

Whenever a student or staff member shows symptoms of COVID-19 that imposes a significant risk of infection of others in the school, the individual shall be excluded from the school and sent home in a safe and proper conveyance. The COVID coordinator will immediately notify the local public health department when a positive COVID case is reported.

School staff must immediately report any illness of students or staff to the school nurse or other designated school staff.

GMU will provide for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event an individual is confirmed to have COVID-19.

There will be a “clean room” if there is a need to move an infected class.

10. Return to School After COVID-19 Illness

If a person with COVID-19 symptoms is not diagnosed as COVID-19 positive by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) they can return to school in coordination with the local health department under the following conditions:

- Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours **AND** are able to meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - They have been diagnosed with another condition and have a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.
 - They have a negative COVID 19 test.
 - They have self- quarantined for 10 days.

GMU WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CDC, STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE. THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROGRESSES.