

Return to School Plan



**GOTHENBURG**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Excellence is an Expectation



Gothenburg Public Schools, in partnership with Gothenburg Health, Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD), and West Central District Public Health (WCDHD), have developed this guidance document to support the district and community in determining plans and strategies for reopening school.

Gothenburg Public Schools' Return-to-School Plan provides a **tiered risk-dial approach** with guidance that is applicable throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Gothenburg Public School will conduct classes and operate within the framework of the four risk colors of the COVID-19 Risk Dial as designated through collaboration with Gothenburg Health, TRPHD, and WCDHD. **Our goal is to have students in school as much as possible.**



There will be health directives and requirements from national, state, and local health officials or the Nebraska Department of Education that the District must follow in order to keep students in our schools and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Gothenburg Public Schools continues to develop possibilities for providing quality education this school year during this pandemic.

Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis for students who need a different educational placement as determined by law (ex. IEP or 504). Below is the framework for Gothenburg Public Schools' procedures based on the information we have available at this time.

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*



**COVID Green: Low Risk of COVID-19 Spread**

- Minimal cases of COVID-19 within the community.
- COVID-19 has minimal impact on local healthcare system
- Viral and antibody testing is readily available
- There are effective treatment modalities for COVID-19 and an effective vaccine is widely available
- PPE is easily obtainable through standard supply chains



Categories	Descriptors
<b>Student Attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students will attend school in person and regular school operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings.</li> <li>• Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer.</li> </ul>
<b>School Building Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students will attend school in person and regular school operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students will attend school in person and regular school operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation services will be provided as normal.</li> </ul>
<b>Meals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meals will be served as normal.</li> </ul>
<b>Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sick children and adults must stay home.</li> <li>• Teach hygiene practices.</li> <li>• Parent communication to slow the spread.</li> <li>• Encourage mask use.</li> <li>• Isolate and send home if temperature is over 100°F and/or additional COVID-19 symptom complaints or as outlined in the student handbook.</li> </ul>

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*

**COVID Yellow: Moderate Risk of COVID-19 Spread**

- There is a downward trajectory in numbers of COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases due to community or regional spread
- There is a downward trajectory in levels of Flu-Like Symptoms OR COVID like syndromic cases in the community
- There is limited community spread within the community
- COVID has a small impact on the local healthcare system capacity
- PPE supplies are adequate for critical healthcare workers and community needs
- Rapid COVID testing is available for all suspected cases and focused asymptomatic surveillance.
- TRPHD is able to conduct investigation and contact tracing for new cases and associated contacts without assistance
- Critical medical equipment is readily available



Categories	Descriptors
<p><b>Student Attendance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will attend school in person.</li> <li>• Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis for students who need a different educational placement as determined by law (ex. IEP or 504).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prevention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are <b>required</b> to wear masks (exceptions will be made for those students whose parents complete an opt-out form).</li> <li>• Teachers and employees are required to wear masks when unable to socially distance.</li> <li>• Temperature checks may be conducted randomly.</li> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings.</li> <li>• Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer.</li> <li>• Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared objects.</li> <li>• Disable water fountains that do not have water bottle filling stations.</li> <li>• Encourage students to bring their own water bottles.</li> <li>• Conduct deep cleaning of schools.</li> </ul>

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*



<b>School Building Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff.</li><li>○ Students will enter buildings through designated doors.</li><li>○ Utilize visuals to encourage social distancing.</li></ul></li><li>● Transitions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Buildings will implement a staggered use of lockers.</li><li>○ Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated (to the extent practicable).</li></ul></li><li>● Visitor Protocol<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Parents and vendors are encouraged to wear a mask.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Calling the front office before visiting the school is encouraged.</li></ul></li><li>○ Outside volunteers may be allowed at the discretion of administration.</li></ul></li><li>● Facility Usage<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Facilities will not be utilized by outside groups.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will attend school in person.</li><li>● <i>Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis for students who need a different educational placement as determined by law (ex. IEP or 504).</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Teachers will post essential content on the district approved learning management system (i.e. Google Classroom).</li><li>○ Teachers will make available live classroom sessions for students who are not able to attend as determined by law (ex. IEP, 504, required quarantine).</li><li>○ All students are expected to complete all assigned formative and summative assessments.</li><li>○ Assessments will be graded.</li></ul></li><li>● Transition Plans will be utilized.</li><li>● All 1st - 12th grade students will be assigned a personal electronic device.</li><li>● Students will socially distance in the classroom to the extent practicable.</li><li>● Lockers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Elementary: Classrooms will implement a staggered use of lockers.</li><li>○ Secondary: Lockers will be used normally.</li></ul></li><li>● Ongoing training will be provided as needed.</li></ul>

Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.



<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Implement standard operating procedures in addition to preventative measures:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Provide hand sanitizer for students.</li><li>○ Bus drivers and students will wear masks.</li><li>○ Temperatures may be taken. Encourage parents to take temperatures at home.</li><li>○ Limit unnecessary congregations of students by utilizing a seating chart.</li><li>○ Establish a protocol for students who feel ill or experience symptoms on the bus.</li><li>○ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus daily.</li></ul></li><li>● All field trips will be suspended until further notice.</li></ul>
<b>Meals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Brunch in the classroom.</li><li>● Students will sanitize or wash hands before eating.</li><li>● Lunch in the cafeteria with physical distancing to the extent practicable. Additional considerations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Satellite cafeteria spaces (i.e. elementary gym, north gym).</li><li>○ Lunch in the classroom.</li></ul></li><li>● Extra sanitation procedures will be used.</li><li>● Some food options may be limited.</li><li>● Condiments will be provided in individual packets.</li><li>● Elementary classes will utilize a seating chart.</li><li>● Student movement will be limited within the cafeteria.</li><li>● Parents/visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch with students.</li></ul>
<b>Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>All sick children and adults must stay home.</b></li><li>● Teach hygiene practices.</li><li>● Parent communication to slow the spread.</li><li>● Require mask use.</li><li>● Isolate and send home if temperature is over 100°F and/or additional COVID-19 symptom complaints or as outlined in the student handbook.</li><li>● Parents/staff will <b>not</b> be notified by the school if a positive case is confirmed, unless required by law and permitted by confidentiality laws. If contact tracing is determined to be necessary by TRPHD, they will make contact.</li></ul>

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*



**COVID ORANGE: Elevated COVID-19 Spread Risk**

- There are increasing or high stable numbers of COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases due to community or regional spread
- There is an increase in Flu-Like Symptoms OR COVID like syndromic cases in the community
- Clusters or outbreaks exist that are still likely in their early stages
- There is only enough testing available for symptomatic people
- TRPHD must rely on assistance to conduct investigation for new cases and associated and contact tracing OR TRPHD must assist adjacent jurisdictions to conduct investigation and contact tracing
- PPE supplies are only adequate for critical healthcare workers
- Critical medical equipment is in limited supply



Categories	Descriptors
<b>Student Attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will attend school in person.</li> <li>• Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis for students who need a different educational placement as determined by law (ex. IEP or 504).</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are <b>required</b> to wear masks (exceptions will be made for those students whose parents complete an opt-out form).</li> <li>• Teachers and staff are required to wear masks when unable to socially distance.</li> <li>• Temperature checks will be conducted.</li> <li>• All students will utilize hand sanitizer upon entrance and exit of the classroom.</li> <li>• Classrooms will be sanitized via electrostatic sprayer daily.</li> <li>• Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared objects.</li> <li>• Disable water fountains that do not have water bottle filling stations.</li> <li>• Encourage students to bring their own water bottles.</li> <li>• Conduct deep cleaning of schools.</li> <li>• Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer.</li> <li>• Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19.</li> </ul>

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*

<p><b>School Building Procedures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Congregations of students and staff will comply with current Directed Health Measures (DHM).</li> <li>○ Students will enter buildings through designated doors.</li> <li>○ Utilize visuals to encourage social distancing.</li> <li>○ Establish a staggered entry and release schedule.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Transitions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Buildings will implement a limited and staggered use of lockers.</li> <li>○ Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) as flow paths to minimize congregation of students.</li> <li>○ Plan staggered class changes to decrease the number of students in hallways at one time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Visitor Protocol             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents and vendors are required to wear a mask.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Calling the front office before visiting the school is required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Outside volunteers may be allowed at the discretion of administration.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Facility Usage             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Facilities will not be utilized by outside groups.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will attend school in person.</li> <li>● <i>Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis for students who need a different educational placement as determined by law (ex. IEP or 504).</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teachers will post essential content on the district approved learning management system (i.e. Google Classroom).</li> <li>○ Teachers will make available live classroom sessions for students who are not able to attend as determined by law (ex. IEP, 504, required quarantine).</li> <li>○ All students are expected to complete all assigned formative and summative assessments.</li> <li>○ Assessments will be graded.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Transition Plans will be utilized.</li> <li>● All 1st - 12th grade students will be assigned a personal electronic device. Devices will be sanitized.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents will be notified of a deployment plan should the district move to “red”.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Students will socially distance in the classroom to the extent practicable.</li> <li>● Cohort transitions may be limited to restrict movement throughout the building to the extent practicable.</li> </ul>

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*



<p><b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b> <i>(continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lockers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elementary: Classrooms will implement a staggered use of lockers.</li> <li>○ Secondary: Lockers will be used normally.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Ongoing training will be provided as needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Due to the inability to appropriately socially distance, transportation will not be provided in orange. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Accommodations will be made on a case by case basis for students who require transportation as determined by law (ex. IEP or 504).</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Meals</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Brunch in the classroom.</li> <li>● Students will sanitize or wash hands before eating.</li> <li>● Lunch in the cafeteria with physical distancing to the extent practicable. Additional considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Satellite cafeteria spaces (i.e. elementary gym, north gym).</li> <li>○ Lunch in the classroom.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Extra sanitation procedures will be used.</li> <li>● Some food options may be limited.</li> <li>● Condiments will be provided in individual packets.</li> <li>● Elementary classes will utilize a seating chart.</li> <li>● Student movement will be limited within the cafeteria.</li> <li>● Parents/visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch with students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All sick children and adults must stay home.</li> <li>● Teach hygiene practices.</li> <li>● Parent communication to slow the spread.</li> <li>● <b>Require mask use.</b></li> <li>● Isolate and send home if temperature is over 100°F and/or additional COVID-19 symptom complaints or as outlined in the student handbook.</li> <li>● Parents/staff will <b>not</b> be notified by the school if a positive case is confirmed, unless required by law and permitted by confidentiality laws. If contact tracing is determined to be necessary by TRPHD, they will make contact.</li> </ul>

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**COVID RED: Severe COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak**

- Widespread community or regional transmission of COVID
- There is a significant increase in COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases which may potentially overwhelm the local healthcare system
- There is a significant increase in Flu-Like Symptoms and COVID-like syndromic cases which may potentially overwhelm the local healthcare system
- Hospitals are utilizing Surge Capacity
- There is an inadequate testing capacity for critical workers
- There is inadequate capacity to conduct investigation and contact tracing
- There are shortages of critical medical equipment or testing supplies
- There are PPE shortages impacting critical healthcare workers



Categories	Descriptors
Student Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All school buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</li> </ul>
Prevention	
Entering School Building	
Transitions	

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*

<b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement Remote Learning Plan             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teachers will post essential content on the district approved learning management system (i.e. Google Classroom).</li> <li>○ Teachers will make available live classroom sessions and office hours for all students.</li> <li>○ All students are expected to complete all assigned formative and summative assessments. Assessments will be graded.</li> <li>○ Distribute printed instructional packets and materials.</li> <li>○ Deploy needed technology.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Special Education             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Services will be provided per the remote learning plan amendment to a student’s IEP. The teacher will work with the child and parents to set up a Zoom schedule to provide instruction to meet each student’s needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Facilities Usage             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Campus is closed. Any access by essential personnel must be approved by the superintendent.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All school buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</li> </ul>
<b>Meals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grab and Go meals will be provided for families.</li> </ul>
<b>Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All school buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</li> </ul>

*Note: Plans may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, or state or local public health agencies.*