

## Infectious Diseases Safety Plan

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## I. Overview

In the 2021-22 school year, Gardner Valley School (GVS) will continue the successful practices of the prior year in providing in-person instruction. During the prior school year, much was learned about the effective practices for reduction and prevention of spreading a number of infectious diseases, including Covid-19. GVS is fortunate to have a small student population and a good-sized facility. As a charter, the school has the flexibility to adapt to challenges posed by the every-changing public health requirements and recommendations. This plan aligns to the GVS Charter Board Resolution ([Board Policy](#) website) that keeps our vision and mission at the forefront, to Colorado and CDC guidance (see Bibliography), and to lessons learned regarding successful practices that balance a safe school environment with a quality educational experience.

GVS is intent on providing the best possible education while carrying out the critical protocols necessary to warrant the prevention of spreading infectious diseases among students, staff and families. This safe for in-person learning plan addresses educational planning, infection spread prevention and being prepared in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. Cooperation in the school safety plan is essential not only to protect the students but to prevent the school from becoming a source of infection for the wider community that includes parents, staff, teachers and all their families. The GVS Infectious Diseases Safety Plan is a living document, adapting to guidance and requirements as they are updated. The intent is that the proposed protocols are an effective balance of prevention of infection practices and limited burden on students, staff and families, with all parties uniting in the effort to provide the best education with the least risk.

## II. Providing the Best Education

### A. In-Person Learning at School

Students learn best in a stimulating learning environment enhanced by collaboration with their peers and teachers. Learning is intuitive and amplified when practiced with one's peers, interacting with new ideas and strategies. GVS is a caring and joy-filled place; students, staff, parents and community are happy to be with one another. Guidance from educational and health agencies support keeping schools open for in-person instruction. To review agency guidance, see the Bibliography below.

GVS is developing an educational model where health and wellness are a key priority. Besides disease prevention, the school promotes healthy eating, exercise and activity in the fresh air. Teachers are learning new ways to incorporate out-of-doors instruction that maximizes outdoor activities. Together, the staff, students, parents and community are creating an educational environment that is healthy, enriching and meaningful (see [Our Vision](#) website and [Our Mission](#) website).

## B. Remote Learning at Home

If a student or group of students need to stay home for more than two days, the students will continue participation in their learning through assignments made available in their Google classrooms. This remote learning is temporary for the short time period that the student(s) are not able to be at school.

## III. Infection Spread Prevention

Entering the third school year impacted by Covid-19, it is clear that students' wellness extends well beyond just disease control. The school, staff, families, and students will balance the social, emotional, physical and academic needs of our students in order to achieve wellness and create a productive learning environment.

Colorado has adopted a guidance model designed to empower local public health and local leaders to protect their communities using a layered approach most appropriate to local conditions. According to Colorado guidance, regardless of transmission and vaccination rates, all education settings should create the safest environment possible for their students through tried-and-true disease prevention measures. These include promoting hand washing, ensuring good ventilation, encouraging activities outside, social distancing, and having sick students stay home. In addition, schools create an accepting environment for parents and students who choose to use masks even when they are not required.

The layered approach at GVS is designed as a Green Light, Yellow Light, Red Light system. GVS will utilize the [Colorado Covid-19 Dial Dashboard](#) to monitor Covid-19 conditions. In addition, GVS will monitor the occurrence of common infectious diseases at the school (i.e., bronchitis, croup, influenza, pinkeye, chickenpox, strep throat) that are disruptive to consistent student attendance and engagement in learning.

The **Green Light** Daily Safety Protocol follows the prevention strategies that address best practices for controlling spread of multiple infectious diseases, as described above, without disrupting the optimum teaching and learning environment. The daily safety protocols start in the morning before staff and students leave home through at-home symptom screening. When arriving at school, staff and students have their temperatures checked and wash their hands when entering their classrooms. Throughout the day, staff and students follow the Green Light guidance with optimum teaching and learning at the forefront. At the end of the day, staff and students sanitize their spaces in preparation for the custodial deep clean after school. See Green Light: Daily Safety Protocol below for the prevention expectations and Attachment One for the classroom poster.

The **Yellow Light** Daily Safety Protocol follows enhanced prevention strategies, with the best effort made to minimize disruption to the teaching and learning environment. See Yellow Light: Daily Safety Protocol below for the prevention expectations and Attachment One for the classroom poster.

The **Red Light** strategies will be applied on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the actions taken are the most appropriate for the situation at hand.

## A. **Green Light** Daily Safety Protocol

Each school day is a Green Light day, unless staff and families have been notified of a change.

**The following prevention practices will be carried out.**

### **At-home Symptom Screening**

- Parents and guardians will check their children for symptoms each morning, using the at-home symptom screening guidance in Student & Family Handbook.

### **Bus to School**

- Students use hand sanitizer as they get on the bus.
- Students sit in assigned seats.
- Students and bus driver wear masks.

### **Arrival at School**

- Students and staff have their temperature taken as they enter the school.
- Students go straight to their home room.
- Students sit in assigned seats.
- Students and staff wash their hands in preparation for meals.

### **Cohort Classrooms**

- Students spend the majority of the day with the same cohort of students.
- Students clean their hands whenever entering the classroom.
- Student seating has a 3-foot physical distance between each student.
- Students and staff can choose their mask preference when in their classrooms.

### **Movement throughout the School**

- Students and staff maintain social distancing when moving throughout the school.
- Students and staff can choose their mask preference when moving throughout the school.
- All visitors sign in at the entrance station as they enter the school.
- All visitors have their temperature taken at the entrance station as they enter the school.
- All visitors use hand sanitizer at entrance station as they enter the school.
- All visitors wear a mask while in the school (disposable masks available at entrance station).

### **Restrooms**

- Students use the “germy space” protocol of washing hands going in and going out.
- Regular cleaning (every two hours).

### **General Safety Measures**

- Buses are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each day.
- School spaces are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized in preparation for each school day.
- Air filter units operate in each classroom throughout the day.
- Windows and doors in the school and windows on the buses are open to provide maximum ventilation and fresh air, weather permitting.

## B. **Yellow Light** Daily Safety Protocol

Staff and families will be notified through text and phone message of a change in daily protocol status.

**On these days the following prevention practices will be carried out.**

### **At-home Symptom Screening**

- Parents and guardians will check their children for symptoms each morning, using the at-home symptom screening guidance in Student & Family Handbook.

### **Bus to School**

- Students use hand sanitizer as they get on the bus.
- Students sit in assigned seats.
- Students and bus driver wear masks.

### **Arrival at School**

- Students and staff have their temperature taken as they enter the school.
- Students go straight to their home room.
- Students sit in assigned seats.
- Students clean their hands in preparation for meals.
- Students pull down their masks to eat meals.

### **Cohort Classrooms**

- Students remain with the same students as a cohort throughout the day.
- Students clean their hands whenever entering the classroom.
- Students sit at their assigned seats with a 3-foot physical distance between each seat.
- Students can choose whether or not to wear their masks when sitting at their desks.
- Students wear their masks when moving about the classroom.
- Staff wear masks when closer than social distancing proximity to students.

### **Movement throughout the School**

- Students and staff maintain social distancing when moving throughout the school.
- Students and staff wear their masks when moving throughout the school.
- All visitors sign in at the entrance station as they enter the school.
- All visitors have their temperature taken at the entrance station as they enter the school.
- All visitors use hand sanitizer at entrance station as they enter the school.
- All visitors wear a mask while in the school (disposable masks available at entrance station).

### **Restrooms**

- Students use the “germy space” protocol of washing hands going in and going out.
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### **General Safety Measures**

- Buses are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each day.
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- Air filter units operate in each classroom throughout the day.
- Windows and doors in the school and windows on the buses are open to provide maximum ventilation and fresh air, weather permitting.

### C. **Red Light** Response to Infection Spread

Although Gardner Valley School strives to prevent infection, in the event of an infection spread situation, the school will respond immediately and decisively with strategies aligned to Colorado guidance. These strategies will be applied on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the actions taken are the most appropriate for the situation at hand. Colorado guidance defines and distinguishes between “cases” and “outbreaks.” Generally, when an individual student or staff member is either diagnosed or has symptoms, that situation is defined as a “case.” When two or more individuals are diagnosed or have symptoms within a cohort, that situation is defined as an “cohort/classroom outbreak.” When two or more individuals from different cohorts are diagnosed or have symptoms, that is defined as a “school outbreak.” The guidance also distinguishes between “confirmed” or “suspected” cases and outbreaks.

If an outbreak is confirmed that affects multiple classrooms/individuals, the school will work with LAHP to determine what additional mitigation strategies may be necessary. The following is a general list of additional mitigation strategies: increased masking, increased physical distancing, serial Covid-19 testing, contact tracing, targeted quarantining, and limiting high risk activities. For detailed analysis, read the complete guidance in the Bibliography. Shifting to remote learning and targeted dismissals will be rare and considered only in exceptional circumstances.

## IV. School Entry Immunization Law

As of July 1, 2021, the School Entry Immunization Law [Senate Bill 20-163](#) is in effect and applies to students returning for the 2021-22 school year. Within the law, parents and caregivers are able to choose immunization, a medical exemption, or a non-medical exemption.

### A. Guidance for Immunization

Parents and caregivers of vaccinated children must provide an up-to-date record of vaccination to the school.

- Prior to the start of the school year, parents and caregivers check to make sure that their children are up-to-date with all required vaccines. Vaccines required for schools in Colorado: [cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines)
- The parent or caregiver provides to the school the record of immunization with the signature of an immunization provider (such as a medical doctor, advanced practice nurse, pharmacist, etc.).

### B. Guidance for Medical Exemption

Parents and caregivers claiming a medical exemption from vaccination for their child must provide a completed Certificate of Medical Exemption to the school.

- Prior to the start of the school year, parents and caregivers check to make sure that they have an up-to-date Certificate of Medical Exemption.
- The parent or caregiver provides to the school the Certificate of Medical Exemption with the signature of an immunization provider (such as a medical doctor, advanced practice nurse, pharmacist, etc.).

- Medical exemptions only need to be submitted once, unless the student's information or school changes.

### C. Guidance for Nonmedical Exemption

Parents and caregivers claiming a nonmedical exemption from vaccination for their child must provide a completed Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption to the school. Nonmedical exemptions will no longer be separated into two categories (personal belief and religious).

- Prior to the start of the school year, parents and caregivers may claim a nonmedical exemption in one of two ways:
  - 1) The official Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption with the signature of an immunization provider (such as a medical doctor, advanced practice nurse, pharmacist, etc.)
    - a) Download the official Certificate of nonmedical exemption.
    - b) Take to an immunizing provider to be signed.

OR

- 2) The official Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption received upon completion of CDPHE's Online Immunization Education Module\*.
  - Access the module [Click Here](#) (it is recommended to review the Technical Guidance and Troubleshooting).
  - Complete the entire module (takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete).
  - Nonmedical Exemption applies to all children of parent or caregiver without having to retake the course.
  - The parent or caregiver provides to the school the official Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption form (received from CDPHE).
- Nonmedical exemptions for school-aged children must be submitted annually and expire on June 30th of each year.

\* The Online Immunization Education Module contains information about vaccine-preventable diseases and their vaccines, vaccine safety and schedules, and vaccine safety concerns. It is accessible online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Nonmedical exemptions will be reported to the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS). Parents and caregivers retain the right to opt their child out of CIIS. Parents and caregivers must complete and submit the CIIS Opt-Out Form to the CDPHE.

### V. Bibliography

1. CDC Guidance, [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)
2. CDC Guidance, [COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs \(cdc.gov\)](#)
3. CO Guidance, [Practical Guide for Operationalizing CDC's School Guidance | Colorado COVID-19 Updates](#)
4. CO Guidance, [Roadmap to In-Person Learning](#)
5. CO Guidance, [SB-163 Implementation Toolkit](#)

# Green Light Day



We're happy.  
We're healthy.  
We're learning and growing.



We give each other space.



We wash our hands.



We keep our air clean.

We respect  
mask preferences.



# Yellow Light Day



We're happy **and** taking care.  
We're healthy **and** staying that way.  
We're learning and growing.

We stay with our class.



1

We wear our masks.



We respect the  
need for distancing.



We  
keep  
our  
hands  
super  
clean.



# Keep Me Home If...

I'm Vomiting

I have a rash, lice or nits

I have diarrhea

I have an eye infection

I have a sore throat

I'm just not feeling very good.

I have a fever

Two or more times in 24 hours.

Body rash, especially with a fever or itching. Lice or nits.

3 or more watery stools in 24 hours.

Thick mucus or pus draining from the eye.

With fever or swollen glands.

Unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, confused or cranky.

Temperature of 100°(F) or more, (taken under the arm) AND sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache or just not feeling good.

## When Your Child is Sick:

1. Have plans for back up child care.
2. Tell your caregiver what is wrong with your child, even if your child stays home.

## At Home COVID-19 Symptom Screening Tool For Parents and Staff

Parents and guardians can use these symptom checklists to determine when to keep their child at home. School staff can also use this tool to determine if they need to stay at home. **Any student or staff diagnosed with COVID-19 or who is a close contact of a COVID-19 case should not go to school and should [isolate or quarantine](#) according to public health recommendations regardless of current symptoms.**

This symptom screen refers only to new symptoms or a change in usual symptoms. A student/staff should not be kept home for usual symptoms they experience due to a chronic condition unless they are worse than usual. These guidelines are in addition to your regular school guidance (for example, a child with vomiting should also not attend school based on usual school guidance). Please refer to the [Return to Learn](#) guidance to determine when it is appropriate to return to school.

**If your child is/you are experiencing any potentially life-threatening symptoms please call 911.**

Symptom Screen:

If any of the following symptoms are present, keep the child at home/stay at home, inform the school of symptoms, and reach out to a health care provider about COVID-19 testing and next steps for treatment.

- Feeling feverish, having chills, or temperature 100.4°F or higher.
- New or unexplained persistent cough.
- Shortness of breath.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Loss of taste or smell.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle aches.
- Headache.
- Sore throat.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.
- Runny nose or congestion.

# RETURN TO LEARN: Guidance Following a Positive COVID-19 Symptom Screen



**Any symptomatic individuals should isolate from symptom onset and pursue evaluation, including testing as soon as possible.** If symptoms develop at school and point of care testing is available, testing may be performed following an initial assessment using the Addressing Symptoms at School tool.

Anyone who tests positive using any viral diagnostic test type (not antibody tests) should be treated as a case and should isolate. No additional test results can end a symptomatic positive individual's isolation period early.

Symptomatic individuals within 90 days of a previous positive viral diagnostic test (not antibody test) and those who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after final dose) should isolate, be investigated for potential infection in consultation with public health and/or a healthcare provider, and may require testing prior to return to school.

**FOR USE IN ALL SCHOOLS AND  
CHILDCARE SETTINGS FOR STAFF  
AND STUDENTS**

Have symptoms resolved within 24 hours of symptom onset?

Yes

No

Did the person have **Minor symptoms** only AND symptoms resolved in 48 hours?

Yes

No

Was testing done?  
(Individual should isolate while awaiting results)

Yes

No

Test result

Negative

Positive

What test type was used?

PCR or molecular

Antigen

Was negative antigen test confirmed with a negative PCR or molecular test?  
**OR** is the individual participating in weekly serial testing and will continue to participate for at least 2 additional weeks?

Yes

No

Follow regular  
**Return to School**

illness policies if all symptoms have resolved or are improving. Adhere to appropriate masking and other mitigation measures.

Follow **Home Isolation** for 10 days following symptom onset and 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing meds.

**Reminder:**

- Unchanged, usual symptoms of a known chronic condition should not prompt exclusion

**Major Symptoms**

- Feeling feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4° F or greater
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

**Minor Symptoms**

- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



To request assistance or provide feedback:  
<https://tinyurl.com/COP12Feedback>



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public Health & Environment

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