

2021-2022 GCSD COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

1. **Masks¹:**

- After consultation with Galena’s Edgar Nollner Health Center Working Group/TCC, because of the Delta variant’s current circulation state/nationwide, masking is required starting Monday, August 9 by all staff, students, and visitors inside school facilities during the school day² until 14 days after the start of school ... Tuesday, September 7.
- After the aforementioned “on-boarding” timeframe and during times of non-enhanced mitigation (see bullet point directly below for more on “enhanced mitigation”), masks are optional (recommended by the CDC for non-vaccinated individuals) inside all school facilities, except for SHS students 11-and-younger (see bullet point further below for details on these younger students).
- If there is a significant outbreak of COVID-19 within Galena (as determined by Galena’s Edgar Nollner Health Center Working Group/TCC), GCSD will most likely require masks inside school facilities during the school day³ for all staff, students, and visitors for a period of time as recommended by the local Edgar Nollner Health Center Working Group/TCC.
- Masking is required for SHS students 11-and-younger while inside SHS until they have had the chance to choose to become fully vaccinated.
- School bus passengers and driver are required by federal regulation to wear masks on buses until the regulation is rescinded and/or modified:
 - Please note: The CDC’s Order under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations 70.2, 71.31(b) and 71.32 (b) - “A Requirement For Persons To Wear Masks While On Conveyances And At Transportation Hubs” stipulates by law that our students and drivers of public school buses must wear masks at the current time.
- Each GCSD IDEA office will adhere to State of Alaska mandates as well as local city/borough ordinances.

2. **Physical distancing:**

- Physical distancing is encouraged while inside school facilities. GCSD has maximized the available space to allow for maximum distancing to minimize potential exposure.

3. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:**

- Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be emphasized for students, staff, and visitors.

¹ Exceptions may apply for cohorting people who are fully vaccinated and for individuals who have provided the superintendent appropriate exemption documentation from a health care provider.

² GILA students and Residence Life staff will wear masks during the evenings and weekends during this “on-boarding” timeframe.

³ Unless there is a significant outbreak of COVID-19 in the residential facility during an “enhanced mitigation” timeframe, GILA students and Residence Life staff will continue to have the option to wear a mask during evenings and weekends.

4. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:**
 - GCSD will continue to have additional custodians on hire to begin the 2021-2022 school year. GCSD purchased and installed HEPA air filter units for every classroom, office, and the most trafficked areas of Ptarmigan Hall.
5. **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments:**
 - GCSD will continue, as during the 2020-2021 school year, regularly consulting with health authorities and supporting any city/borough ordinances and State of Alaska mandates during the 2021-2022 school year.
 - GCSD will follow Alaska's Dep't of Health & Social Services protocols related to positive COVID-19 cases and close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases.
6. **Diagnostic and screening testing:**
 - GCSD will continue to consult with health authorities during the 2021-2022 school year regarding any needed diagnostic and screening testing.
 - See first two bullet points in section 9 below for specifics regarding travel-related testing.
 - During times of "enhanced mitigation" (per recommendation of local health authorities), GCSD may provide antigen testing of students and staff in consultation with local health authorities.
7. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:**
 - GCSD regularly consults/collaborates with local health authorities regarding vaccination clinics.
8. **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:**
 - GCSD's director of special education ensured that all students with disabilities received any needed appropriate health and safety accommodations during the 2020-2021 school year and will do so again during the 2021-2022 school year.
9. **Sports, Activities, and Travel:**
 - Athletics: Daily symptom check for athletes and coaches. GCSD plans to test athletes and coaches/chaperones with the BinaxNOW antigen test prior to departure and upon return from a school-sponsored athletics trip (3-5 days after return for vaccinated / morning of day 8 for unvaccinated). Any positive result is immediately verified by a molecular PCR test. Returning travelers will wear masks while inside GCSD facilities until receiving a negative test.
 - Other Activities: GCSD plans to test students and chaperones with the BinaxNOW antigen test prior to departure and upon return from a school-sponsored athletics trip (3-5 days after return for vaccinated / morning of day 8 for unvaccinated). Any positive result is immediately verified by a molecular PCR test. Returning travelers will wear masks while inside GCSD facilities until receiving a negative test.
 - Vaccination required (or have medical/religious exemption on file) for students traveling for school-sponsored activities.