

Grenada School District COVID-19 Guidelines 2021-2022

** The following guidelines are subject to change as updated information from COVID-19 data, Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi High School Activities Association, and state/federal political decisions are made daily.*

UPDATES

8/18/21 — Due to a surge in the number of students being quarantined, all 5th grade students will be quarantined for 14 calendar days. These students will be taught virtually and will return on September 2, 2021. After completing the 14 day quarantine period, it will not be necessary for 5th grade students to get a negative COVID test to return to school. Students who do not have their computers at home will need parents to make arrangements to come by Grenada Elementary 4-5 on Thursday, August 19, to pick computers up at the front office between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

8/17/21 — Due to a surge in the number of students being quarantined at multiple schools, the Grenada School District is implementing the following: Kindergarten through 12th grade will be required to wear a mask for the next 14 calendar days beginning Thursday, August 17. After the 14-day period, the mask policy will be reevaluated. (Pre-K students will not be required to wear the mask.)

Our 7th grade students and middle school fast-track students will be quarantined for 14 calendar days. These students will be taught virtually. The return date will be August 31.

After completing the 14-day quarantine period, it will not be necessary for 7th grade students and middle school fast-track students to get a negative test to return to school.

8/16/21 — According to guidelines from the Mississippi Department of Health, we are unable to accept results from home test kits, only results from a licensed healthcare provider or pharmacist. We ask that you please avoid using UMMC Grenada's emergency room for your COVID test. Let's allow the hospital to devote all of its resources to emergency medical cases at this time.

VACCINATIONS

Grenada School District will continue to promote COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible students, teachers, and staff. All eligible students, teachers, and staff 12 years of age and older should receive COVID-19 vaccination. The district has partnered with University of Mississippi Medical Center - Grenada to provide on-site access to the COVID-19 vaccines for appropriate school-age children with parent permission and faculty and staff who agree to be vaccinated. **UMMC medical staff will provide vaccine shots at the Armory annex (1779 Jackson Ave.) on Monday, August 23 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

HEALTH & SAFETY

If a student is sent home ill with flu-like symptoms (temperature of 100.4 or greater, coughing, sneezing, body aches, diarrhea, sore throat, etc.) and it is not COVID-19 related, we ask that parents keep students home for a minimum of 1 day (24 hours) to monitor symptoms. This is a suggestion to allow a chance for symptoms to appear.

EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

What is considered close-contact exposure to persons infected with COVID-19? Close exposure means that, during the past 24 hours, you have been within 3 feet of an infected individual for 15 minutes or more, even if all individuals are wearing masks, or within 6 feet if all individuals are not wearing masks. To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) which is 3 feet with a mask, or 6 feet without a mask from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Parent/student/staff is to report to the principal when he/she has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The student/staff who is considered a close contact must show proof of being fully vaccinated or submit to an outside COVID-19 test. **(Please note that we are unable to accept results from home test kits, only results from a licensed healthcare provider or pharmacist.)**

All unvaccinated individuals exposed to COVID-19 are recommended to be quarantined and excluded from the school setting during the quarantine. What is considered close exposure? Again, close exposure means that, during the past 24 hours, you have been within 3 feet of an infected individual for 15 minutes or more, even if all individuals are wearing masks, or within 6 feet if all individuals are not wearing masks. Practice social or physical distancing by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) which is 3 feet with a mask, or 6 feet without a mask from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces. If the exposed individual has no symptoms for 7 days and has a negative COVID-19 test collected on day 5, 6, or 7 of the quarantine period, the quarantine period can be discontinued after 7 days, and they can return to school or work on day 8. GSD will require proof of negative test results before an individual will be allowed to return to school or work. If a student/staff member is determined to be a close contact and has not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, has not been fully vaccinated, or refuses COVID-19 testing, that individual must quarantine for 14 days. **Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to be quarantined but should be tested 3-5 days after exposure. The school nurse may administer a nasal swab test for vaccinated students/staff only. Parents must sign a consent form (www.gsd.k12.ms.us/forms/%20COVIDscr.pdf) in order for their child to be tested.**

While waiting on results:

- Temperatures should be taken twice daily.
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19: fever, coughing, shortness of breath, or other symptoms.

STUDENT OR STAFF WITH COVID-19

If test results are positive, whether from school-based testing or an outside source, the person is to remain in quarantine for 10 days after the date of last exposure. A physician and/or Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) should provide parent/staff with written dates of quarantine (copy of results will be needed). If a person has been in close contact with staff and/or students, the district will inform him/her of potential exposure.

Before leaving the residence, parents/Guardian will check their student(s) temperature and ask questions relating to COVID-19.

Have you been around anybody with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

If the answer is yes, the student must show proof of being fully vaccinated, agree to school based COVID-19 testing, be tested by their primary physician, or quarantine for 14 days. (See School-Based COVID-19 Testing/ Screening on the website.)

Have you been having any symptoms related to COVID-19 (fever {100.4 or greater}, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of senses {smell or taste}, coughing, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)?

If the answer is yes to the above question, the student needs to stay at home and monitor symptoms. Contact the school, so the student can complete school work virtually.

SCHOOL BUSES

GSD recommends that students wear facial coverings before they get on the bus and should practice social distance. Social distancing means people should remain greater than 6 feet apart. Upon entering the bus, students will have the opportunity to put hand sanitizer on their hands. While on the bus, students are encouraged to wear facial coverings. Social distancing is encouraged when possible. Students will exit the bus and go straight to their designated area. As of August 17, GSD requires students to wear a facial covering when entering the building.

VISITORS

As of August 17, GSD requires that visitors wear appropriate facial coverings. Visitors to campus will have their temperature taken and logged upon entry. Any visitor with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to enter the building. Visitors will be limited to the foyer area except as deemed by the school principals. GSD encourages communication with staff to be done by phone or virtually.

ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

The Grenada School District will follow the guidance and activities calendar of the Mississippi High School Activities Association in regard to activities and athletics. **As of April 20, 2021, MHSAA (Mississippi High School Activities Association) decided full-time virtual students and students under quarantine will not be allowed to participate in athletics and activities. Students cannot participate in athletic or activities if they are quarantined.**

GSD will continue to update our guidelines as we receive information from the Mississippi State Department of Health. The school principal is to contact Dr. Tina Herrington for all COVID-19 questions and concerns.