

Dear Good Shepherd's Lutheran families,

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we must acknowledge that the dynamics of the pandemic have changed. Solid evidence exists that schools were one of the healthiest, safest places, even when infection numbers were at their peak. Despite the varying degrees of mitigation efforts that different schools and districts implemented, the overall theme was that community spread within school buildings did not often occur. Last school year we found that student-to student or teacher-to-student transmission simply did not happen on a large scale. Because of these experiences, the decision has been made to begin the 2021-2022 school year under less stringent policies than last school year. However, some mitigation efforts will remain.

The following document outlines the COVID-19 policies that will be in place when Good Shepherd's students return to school. These policies assume that our national, state, and local governments continue to offer guidelines and suggestions, not laws or mandates. **If any level of our government issues a new set of rules with the force of law behind them, Good Shepherd's will comply without hesitation, unless such rules contain stipulations in opposition to our faith in Christ and adherence to his Word as the ultimate authority.** In addition, if the relaxed protocols at Good Shepherd's coincide with a significant increase in COVID-19 transmission, the Board of Education reserves the right to amend this plan as they deem necessary.

God will guide us through the 2021-2022 school year just as he has in previous years. His Word gives us comfort when the psalmist writes, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10); Jesus gives us direction for our ministry when he says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them" (Matthew 19:14). Your school will continue to "Reach, teach, and disciple families in Christ," no matter what that looks like in the coming months. May God continue to protect you and your loved ones now and in the future!

In HIM,

Principal Henning

Panthers Return Plan 2021

Rules and Procedures (8/10/2021)

DISCLAIMER: Any rules and procedures that follow are subject to change throughout the year based on changing scientific evidence, government guidance or mandates, and the like.

General Points of Information

- GSLS will plan for on-site instruction, 5 days per week.
GSLS will continue to follow effective cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Any individual PreK-8 student quarantine does not necessarily dictate an entire classroom or school closure.
- GSLS students, teachers, and family members may contract COVID-19. GSLS will implement reasonable and feasible safety protocols and procedures so we can do our part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and make our school a safe place for our students and teachers.

Family Education

- Anyone with COVID-19 or living in the same house with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 needs to stay home for a period of time.
- GSLS will reference Guidelines from the West Allis Health Department.
- The most prevalent COVID-19 symptoms in children tend to be mild and cold-like and may include fever, runny nose, cough, fatigue, aches, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Students and staff should stay home if they have any signs of sickness, especially those which are known COVID-19 symptoms.
- It is up to the discretion of the school to send home a sick student.
- Before sending your child to school each day, please assess your child's health in the following ways:
 1. Temperatures will once again be taken at the main entrance door with our infrared camera as students enter in the morning. However, please check your student for any symptoms in the morning.
 2. If you would answer **YES** to **ANY** of the following statements below, please do not send your child to school.
 3. **Screening Questions**
 1. **My child has, or has had a temperature over 100.4°F in the past 24 hours.**
 2. **My child has, or has had potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as excessive or persistent coughing, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea in the past 24 hours.**
 3. **I have given my child medication to lower his/her temperature in the past 24 hours.**
 4. **Someone in my household has COVID-19.**
 5. **I know my child has been exposed to or was in contact with someone who has COVID-19 in the last 48 hours.**

COVID-19 DAILY MONITORING CHECKLIST

1 Does your child have a fever of 100.4°F or more or feel feverish?

2 Has your child had close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19?

3 Does your child have any of the symptoms listed below?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fever | <input type="checkbox"/> headache |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chills | <input type="checkbox"/> muscle/body aches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cough | <input type="checkbox"/> loss of taste or smell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shortness of breath | <input type="checkbox"/> sore throat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> abdominal pain | <input type="checkbox"/> diarrhea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fatigue | <input type="checkbox"/> nausea or vomiting |



If your child said 'yes' to any of the questions above or if your child feels sick:

- 1. keep your child home**
- 2. excuse your child from school**
- 3. call your child's doctor**

- Students who are sent home with a fever must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to school, per CDC guidelines.

School Visitors

- Volunteers will again be welcome into classrooms at Good Shepherd's this year; however, all volunteers should be sure to self-screen according to the Daily Monitoring Checklist.
- Visitors to the classrooms during the day will be allowed but must give prior notice to the classroom teacher and check in at the office upon arrival; if visitors are ill, they should not enter the school.

Cleaning Procedures.

- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected daily.
- Disinfectant wipes will be in the classrooms for teachers and students to use throughout the day.
- Rest assured that our school will be thoroughly cleaned and will be a safe place to learn.

Student Education

- In addition to the regular procedural implementations and culture-building activities each classroom does at the beginning of the year, teachers will spend time going through and teaching proper cleaning and hygiene practices, including handwashing.
- Signs throughout the school will encourage students and staff to practice proper hygiene.
- Students will be taught the reasons why you should not share water bottles. They are to go home every day to be washed.
- Students will not be allowed to share snacks.
- Teachers will emphasize the importance of personal space.

Student Groupings and Spacing

- Multi-grade recess will resume as it has been in the past.

Vaccinations

- Currently, children 12 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination.
- Families should decide individually if the vaccine is an option for their children if they are eligible.
- Good Shepherd's will not require vaccination for students or staff; if, in the future, the COVID-19 vaccine is added to the list of required vaccinations for schools in Wisconsin, it will be subject to the same rules and exemptions as all other required vaccinations.

Face Coverings/Masks

- Mask usage throughout the day by staff and students will be a personal or family decision. Please read the section entitled "Further Guidance from West Allis Health Department on Quarantine Timelines and Close Contacts" section at the end of this document before making this decision.
- Verbal or physical abuse relating to students wearing or not wearing masks is harassment and will not be tolerated at GSLS.

Positive Test Quarantine/Close Contact

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, he or she will need to isolate at home.

- 10-day isolation from onset of symptoms/positive test
- Students may return to school after 10 days if they have been fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours and their other symptoms are improving or gone.
- Siblings/family members of anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine at home for the appropriate period of time.
 - 10-day quarantine from last close contact.
 - Students/staff may return to school on Day 11 if they have no symptoms.
 - Students/staff may return to school on Day 7 if they have no symptoms and receive a negative test result.
- Those individuals who are fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantine if exposed to a confirmed or suspected Covid-19 case, unless they develop symptoms. They are also encouraged to get tested 3-5 days after exposure regardless of symptoms.
- Good Shepherd's will not quarantine entire classrooms or the entire school unless it is deemed necessary due to obvious community spread within the classroom or school building.

Lunch

- Students will eat lunch with their grade level in the classroom.
- Two lunch periods will continue to be utilized due to the number of students we have enrolled.
- A hot lunch at a local chain restaurant through school will be available once again on Fridays. Staff will continue to maintain exemplary hygiene standards when serving food.
- Students will not be allowed to share food with each other.

Chapel

- Chapel will continue to be held on Fridays.
- All students will have chapel together either in the gymnasium or church sanctuary.
- Chapel buddies will be implemented once again with other students sitting with younger ones..

School Supplies

- Students may bring a water bottle to school, which may be filled up at the sinks in the classroom or at the drinking fountains.
 - Water bottles may be any style, not be shared with others, and must contain only water.
 - Parents should make sure water bottles are either filled with water when leaving home or empty to be filled at school.
 - Drinking fountains will be operational this year.
- Students should not share their personal items throughout the day (pencils, markers, crayons, glue, etc.). In general, the sharing of school supplies among students will be limited.
- Handwashing stations or hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.

Music

- Classrooms will be scheduled to sing in church as in the past; the singing schedule was made available to parents.
- A Jr. Choir opportunity for students in grades 5-8 will once again be made available this year.

Student Attendance

Any student that is not physically attending in person instruction at Good Shepherd's will be marked absent by their teacher. As stated in the parent orientation video, a virtual option for learning will not be offered this school year. As with any absence, the parents and classroom teacher will be expected to communicate regarding the learning or assessments missed while the student was absent.

Miscellaneous

- Air purifiers will once again be used in each classroom to help to circulate clean and germ free air.
- Field trips will occur as in the past at the discretion of the classroom teachers and the principal.
- Birthday treats may be brought to school as in the past.

Further Guidance from West Allis Health Department on Quarantine Timelines and Close Contacts

Please read the information below in order to make a determination on whether or not to have your student masked. It is taken directly from the "2021-22 Back to School Guidance" document from August 5, 2021.

- **Close Contacts:** Anyone who is within 6 feet of a positive case for a total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24 hour period.
 - The exception to this definition is in the school setting. In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both students correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
- **Quarantine Timelines:** The West Allis Health Department has allowed a 10-day quarantine for those people who are in close contact to someone who tests positive as long as that person remains without symptoms and continues to monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days.
 - A shortened quarantine of 7 days can also be allowed, but the quarantined individual must get tested on day 6 or 7 of their quarantine, have a negative test result verified by the school, and be without symptoms. Once the results are verified by the school, then the individual can return to school on day 8 as long as they continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for the full 14 days.

May God watch over us, guide us, bless us, and keep us safe as we begin a new school year in His name.