

1 Great Falls School District

2

3 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

4

5 Pandemic Emergency Measures

1905

6

7 Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety

8

9 The District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the terms of the declared
10 public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to
11 students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are
12 present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being
13 of parents and community members. The Superintendent or designees are authorized to
14 implement or remove necessary health and safety protocols in coordination with state and local
15 health officials. The Superintendent is directed to brief the Board regularly concerning the
16 District's COVID-19 protocols, including masking requirements.

17

18 Symptoms of Illness

19

20 Students and staff who are ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise demonstrating symptoms of illness
21 must not come to school or work. Students who have a fever or are exhibiting other signs of
22 illness must be isolated in a designated area until such time as parents or caregiver may arrive at
23 the school to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be thoroughly cleaned and
24 disinfected once the student has vacated the area by staff utilizing safety measures in accordance
25 with state and/or local health standards as applicable. Students may engage in alternative
26 delivery of education services during the period of illness or be permitted to make up work in
27 accordance with District Policy 1906. Staff members will be provided access to leave in
28 accordance with District Policy 1911 or the applicable Master Contract or Memorandum of
29 Understanding.

30

31 Parents, guardians, or caregivers of students who are ill, feeling ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise
32 demonstrating symptoms of illness must not be present at school for any reason including but not
33 limited to events or gatherings or to drop off or pick up students except as provided by this
34 policy. To avoid exposing others to illness, parents or caregivers who are ill must make
35 arrangements with others to transport students to school or events, if at all practicable.

36

37 Physical Distancing

38

39 Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors will maintain at least a three-six-foot (3ft for students and
40 6ft for adults) distance between themselves and their colleagues and peers throughout the school
41 day inside any school building when practicable.

42

43 Recess and use of playgrounds during recess are permitted on an adjusted schedule to maintain
44 appropriate student groupings. Transportation services will be provided in accordance with
45 cleaning and disinfection procedures outlined in this policy.

46

1 Parent arrival times to drop-off and pick up students riding with parents and caregivers may be
2 staggered in designated intervals by grade level through a schedule set by the building
3 administrator.

4
5 Drop off and pick up of students will be completed in a manner that limits direct contact between
6 parents and staff members and adheres to social distancing expectations around the exterior of
7 the school building while on school property.

8
9 Visitors to the school authorized by District Policy 1903 will maintain a six-foot distance
10 between themselves and others.

11 Face Coverings as Personal Protective Equipment

12
13
14 This provision is required due to the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the Board of
15 Trustees or other local, state or federal agency, official, or legislative body. This policy is
16 adopted, implemented, and enforced in accordance with the supervisory authority vested with the
17 Board of Trustees in accordance with Article 10, section 8 of the Montana Constitution and
18 related statues and regulations. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to develop
19 and implement procedures to enforce this policy.

20
21 If at any point during the school year, the number of active COVID-19 cases in Cascade County
22 or in specific GFPS schools increases to the point of concern by County Health officials or the
23 GFPS administration, the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to consult with members
24 of the GFPS COVID-19 Advisory Panel (may include; Health Care Professionals, GFPS Staff
25 and Board Committee members, parent and teacher representatives) to develop a plan to address
26 the Health and Safety requirements (including the use of face masks) in all schools or in specific
27 schools. The details of this plan will be communicated by the District to all stakeholders,
28 including The Board of Trustees in a clear and timely manner.

29
30 The District will follow all Federal requirements regarding face coverings for drivers and riders
31 on District routes and activities buses.

32 Cleaning and Disinfecting

33
34
35 District personnel will routinely both clean by removing germs, dirt, and impurities and disinfect
36 by using chemicals to kill germs on all surfaces and objects in any school building and on school
37 property that are frequently touched. This process shall include cleaning objects/surfaces not
38 ordinarily cleaned daily.

39
40 Personnel will clean with the cleaners typically used and will use all cleaning products according
41 to the directions on the label. Personnel will disinfect with common EPA-registered household
42 disinfectants. A list of products that are EPA/District approved for use against the current virus
43 will be made available. Personnel will follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and
44 disinfection products.

45

1 The District will provide EPA/District approved cleaning supplies to teachers, staff and
2 secondary students so that commonly used surface (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can
3 be wiped down before use. Supervising teachers or administrators are required to request
4 adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.

5 6 Student Arrival 7

8 Hand hygiene stations will be available at the entrance of every school building, so that children
9 can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, the District
10 will provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Proper hand hygiene will be taught and
11 proper application of hand sanitizer will be supervised for elementary students.

12
13 A District employee will greet children outside the school as they arrive to ensure orderly
14 compliance with the provision of this policy.

15 16 Temperature Screening 17

18 Designated District staff are authorized to test the temperature of symptomatic students and staff
19 with an approved non-contact or touchless reader. Students who have a fever or are exhibiting
20 other signs of illness must be isolated in a designated area until such time as parents or caregiver
21 may arrive at the school to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be thoroughly
22 cleaned and disinfected once the student has vacated the area.

23
24 When administering a temperature check on a possibly ill staff or student, designated staff
25 members will utilize available physical barriers and personal protective equipment to eliminate
26 or minimize exposures due to close contact to an individual who has symptoms during screening.

27 28 Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior 29

30 Students, staff and others present in any school building will engage in hand hygiene at the
31 following times, which include but are not limited to:

- 32
- 33 • Arrival and departure to and from the facility and after breaks
 - 34 • Before and after preparing, eating, or handling food or drinks
 - 35 • Before and after administering medication or screening temperature
 - 36 • After coming in contact with bodily fluid
 - 37 • After recess
 - 38 • After handling garbage
 - 39 • After assisting students with handwashing
 - 40 • After use of the restroom
 - 41 • After laboratory use or shared equipment
- 42

43 Staff members will place a grade level appropriate poster describing handwashing steps near
44 sinks.

45
46

1 Vulnerable Individuals

2
3 Vulnerable individuals (defined by the Centers for Disease Control) are authorized to talk to their
4 healthcare provider to assess their risk and to determine if they require reasonable
5 accommodations to work.

6
7 Employees who have documented high risk designation from a medical provider are entitled to
8 reasonable accommodation within the meaning of that term in accordance with the Americans
9 with Disabilities Act and Section 504 as outlined in District Policy 5002.

10
11 Food Preparation and Meal Service

12
13 Facilities must comply will all applicable federal, state and local regulations and guidance related
14 to safe preparation of food.

15
16 Sinks used for food preparation must not be used for any other purposes.

17
18 Staff and students will wash their hands in accordance with this policy.

19
20 Transportation Services

21
22 The Board of Trustees authorized the transportation of eligible transportees to and from the
23 school facility in a manner consistent with the protocols established in this policy. The school
24 bus drivers and/or transportation personnel, will clean and disinfect each seat on each bus at the
25 end of the day. Federal regulations require the wearing of masks on all public-school buses.

26
27
28 Public Awareness

29
30 The District will communicate with parents, citizens, and other necessary stakeholders about the
31 protocols established in this policy and the steps taken to implement the protocols through all
32 available and reasonable means.

33
34 Confidentiality

35
36 This policy in no way limits or adjusts the District’s obligations to honor staff and student
37 privacy rights. All applicable District policies and handbook provision governing confidentiality
38 of student and staff medical information remain in full effect.

39
40 Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes

41
42 The Board of Trustees may transfer state or local revenue from any budgeted or non-budgeted
43 fund, other than the debt service fund or retirement fund, to its building reserve fund in an
44 amount not to exceed the District’s estimated costs of improvements to the school and student
45 safety and security to implement this policy in accordance with District Policy 7123.

1 Legal References: Governor’s Directive Implementing Executive Order 2-2021
2 Correspondence clarify Governor’s Directive – February 11, 2021
3 Article X, Section 8 Montana Constitution
4 Section 20-3-324, MCA Powers and Duties
5 Section 20-9-806, MCA School Closure by Declaration of Emergency
6 10.55.701(2)(d)(s) Board of Trustees
7 State, ex rel., Bartmess v. Helena Board of Trustees, 726P2d.801
8
9

10 Cross References:

11 Policy 1901 School District Policy and Procedure
12 Policy 1903 District Meetings, Gatherings, Events and Visitors
13 Policy 1903F School Event and/or Facility Notice
14 Policy 1905P Administrative Procedures for Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety
15 Policy 1906 Student Services and Instructional Delivery
16 Policy 1907 Transportation Services
17 Policy 1910 Human Resources and Personnel
18 Policy 1911 Personnel Use of Leave
19 Policy 3226 Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
20 Policy 3410 Student Health Physical Screenings Examinations
21 Policy 3417 Communicable Diseases
22 Policy 3431 Emergency Treatment
23 Policy 4120 Public Relations
24 Policy 5002 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities
25 Policy 5130 Staff Health
26 Policy 5226 Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
27 Policy 5230 Prevention of Disease Transmission
28 Policy 6110 Superintendent
29 Policy 6122 Delegation of Authority
30 Policy 7123 Transfers for School Safety
31

32 Policy History

33 Adopted on: May 1, 2020
34 Revised on: August 20, 2020
35 Revised on: September 14, 2020
36 Revised on: August 19, 2021
37 Revised on: November 8, 2021