



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

Version 1

June 18, 2021

Cape Girardeau Public Schools (CGPS) will continue in-person learning for the 2022-2023

school year. District leaders are confident the best way to deliver a high-quality educational experience to students is by providing face-to-face instruction. Previously, CGPS stakeholder input was shared and discussed by district board members and school leaders at the May 2021 board meeting and again with the Cape County Health Department at the district's July 2021 board meeting. During the 20-21 school year, the Certified Teachers Association (CTA) met with the Superintendent to discuss issues surrounding implementation of the re-entry plan. All of the feedback mentioned above was taken into consideration as the 21-22 re-entry plan was revised. The District will work with families to provide a clear understanding of the health and safety procedures outlined in this plan in other languages as needed.

The District will continue to work closely with local health officials to monitor trends in cases throughout the county. Should schools be forced to close due to an uptick in cases or quarantines, students will be equipped to seamlessly move to virtual learning as teachers are incorporating a number of online learning tools into daily instruction.

In order to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 or any other other illness on our campuses, custodial staff will continue to thoroughly clean and disinfect buildings each day. The District will also promote the use of hand sanitizer by making sure it's available at all entrances and throughout buildings. Student-facing employees will encourage frequent and proper hand washing techniques, and schools will regularly remind families about the importance of keeping students home when they are sick. *Visitors should not enter a building on any CGPS campus if they are exhibiting any of the following:*

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or running nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

In partnership with local pharmacies, the District previously sponsored four COVID-19 vaccination clinics (3/19/21, 4/9/21, 6/2/21, 6/23/21, 11/19/21, 12/10/21) for students, staff members and the community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Future clinics will be scheduled as needed.

Our top priority remains ensuring the safety of our students, staff and other visitors is not threatened. In order to protect our school family, it is possible that our re-entry plan could change. Any changes will always be communicated to families through email, posted on the District's website at www.capetigers.com and shared on the CGPS Facebook page. Important edits to the plan will also be sent to local media partners so they can help communicate major changes.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve our students and families. Please know it's a responsibility we do not take lightly. All of us at CGPS are excited to be able to provide students with the face-to-face instruction and attention they all deserve.

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CGPS had operated under a traditional format for the Fall Semester of the 2022-2023 school year. It is the District's intent to continue normal operations during the Spring Semester of 2023. The following documents outline the District's COVID-19 procedures in the event they are needed.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

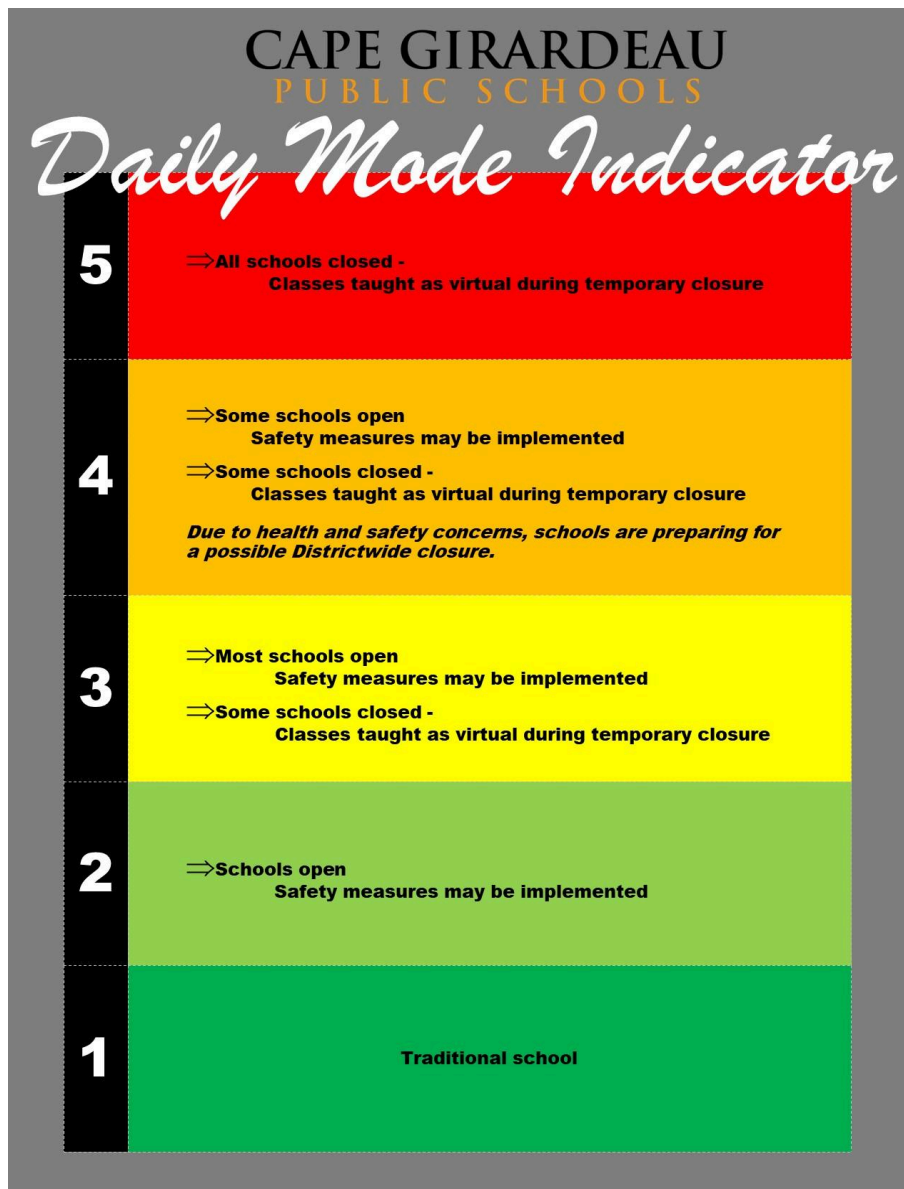
Early Childhood Programs

- Students will be assigned to an AM or PM session.
- Necessary cleaning protocols will be implemented between the AM and PM sessions.
- Student attendance will be closely monitored.
- If a rise in COVID-19 cases occurs, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups (children will remain in one classroom for learning).
- If a rise in COVID-19 cases occurs, large gatherings (such as all-school assemblies and school-wide celebrations) may not occur.
- If a rise in COVID-19 cases occurs, classroom protocols may include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.
- If a rise in COVID-19 cases occurs, students may be screened daily for health. Please refer to the Surveillance, Screening and Triage section of this document for additional information.
- Individual school closures may occur as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons. Please refer to the CGPS School Closures section of this document for more information.

Elementary and Secondary Education

- In-person classes will be taught in a traditional format. However, students will use an online platform such as Canvas/Google Classroom throughout the school day in order to prepare for temporary school closure. If a temporary school closure occurs due to increased health and safety concerns, in-person classes could transition to virtual learning.
 - Temporary school closures may occur by building as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons. Please refer to the CGPS School Closures section of this document for more information.
- Those allowed into the school buildings may be screened. Please refer to the Surveillance, Screening and Triage section of this document for additional information.
- Special Education Services
 - All special education students will be provided instruction relative to their IEP goals.
 - A student's case manager will continue to work with families to ensure that the IEP is being met.
 - The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed.
 - If CGPS closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher.
- Section 504 Services
 - Section 504 plans will continue to be implemented. If needed, the 504 team may reconvene to adjust accommodations and modifications.
- EL (English Learner) Services
 - EL students will receive direct support from their EL teacher.
 - If CGPS closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their EL teacher.
 - The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's goals are being addressed.
- Performing & Visual Arts
 - Students will use their own equipment as much as possible to avoid sharing. When this is not possible, appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place. Teachers will demonstrate proper hand washing and cleaning of tools, equipment and media so that students can properly clean shared items when appropriate.
- Physical Education
 - Classes will engage in outdoor activities as much as possible.
 - Students will be provided their own equipment for class when possible and equipment will be regularly disinfected.
 - Handwashing before and after physical activity will be required.
- Library Media Services
 - Safety measures will be enacted to clean and sanitize circulated materials.

Safety and Well Being



In levels 2-5, the District may consider implementing the following actions. Decisions would be determined by District administration in consultation with the Cape Girardeau County Health Department.

- Entry into schools may be restricted to staff and students. Other visitors and volunteers must receive pre-approval from the appropriate Central Office Administrator.
- Cafeteria activities may be modified and procedures may include delivery of meals to classrooms, orchestrated group releases, assigned seating and/or expanded eating areas.
- Suspension of activities including sporting events, performing arts performances, field trips, and after-school classes and clubs.
- Masks may be recommended to be worn while on school premises.
- Screening methods may be implemented in order to enter school property.
- Large gatherings may be limited or eliminated.
- Other mitigation measures may be implemented at the direction of school administrators or due to local, state and federal guidelines.

Surveillance, Screening and Triage

- Students and staff are asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor if they:
 - have tested positive for COVID-19;
 - have been diagnosed presumptive positive for COVID-19;
 - are awaiting COVID-19 test results; and/or
 - exhibit one or more symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained. These symptoms include but are not limited to:
 - a fever of 100° or higher without fever-reducing medication
 - cough;
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - chills;
 - repeated shaking with chills;
 - muscle pain;
 - headache;
 - nausea/vomiting;
 - diarrhea;
 - sore throat; and/or
 - new loss of taste or smell.
 - In order to return to school, students and staff must be fever free for a minimum of 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- Siblings or Other Students in the Household
 - If a student is exposed to COVID-19 AND he or she has received the COVID-19 vaccination (two weeks must have passed after the final dose), he or she does not have to quarantine per current CDC guidelines. If a student has not been vaccinated for COVID-19, the following procedures will be followed:
 - If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID-19 test, his/her siblings or other students living in the same household will be questioned and if they exhibit symptoms, they will also be excluded from school. If they do not exhibit symptoms, they may still be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine. Decisions on excluding siblings of positive students from school when symptoms are not present will be made after consulting with the local health department.
- Self-Quarantine
 - If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19 or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the District may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days, unless the student or employee has received the COVID-19 vaccination (two weeks must have passed after the final dose).
- Staff, students and pre-approved visitors entering the school buildings may be screened as follows depending on the Daily Mode Indicator Level. No screenings are required at Level 1.
 - All students may be temperature checked prior to entering the building.
 - Bus riders may be screened upon boarding the bus.
 - If a student is boarding the bus without a parent present and indicates a temperature of 100.0° or higher, the student will be assigned a seat in the front of the bus. Students with an elevated

temperature will have their temperature checked a second time upon arrival to school. If the elevated temperature is still registering, the student will be taken to the isolation room where an additional temperature check with a different thermometer will be conducted. If indicated, the parent / guardian will be contacted and additional screening will occur.

- Car riders, daycare students, and walkers may be temperature checked upon arrival.
 - If a student indicates a temperature of 100.0° or higher, a second check will be done. If the elevated temperature is still registering, the student will be taken to the isolation room where an additional temperature check will be conducted with a different thermometer. If indicated, the parent / guardian will be contacted and additional screening will occur.
- If a student visits the nurse, additional screening may be implemented as needed, including the BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Self Test.
- Staff may be asked screening questions each day prior to arrival at school. Individuals at risk will be redirected for additional screening.
- Students could be asked screening questions each day prior to entering the building.
- Students may be required to wear masks / face coverings in the following areas / situations depending on the local or state mandates as well as district procedures.
 - Secondary students in grades 7-12 are required to wear masks in hallways and common areas.
 - Elementary and middle school students in grades K-6 are encouraged to wear them in hallways and common areas. Students will remain with their homeroom / stable group of students during this time.
 - All students (PK-12) are required to wear masks during transportation on buses.
 - Students in grades 4-12 are required to wear masks in accordance with Cape County Health Department guidelines.
 - All students may be required to wear masks during intermittent periods in classrooms throughout the day depending on the activity and proximity to others.
 - Students are required to bring their own cloth mask. A limited supply of disposable masks are available if needed. Students with special needs may be exempt from this requirement.
 - Should the District's average daily attendance drop below 90% for five consecutive days, masks will be required.
- Staff may be encouraged to wear masks / face coverings when within 6 feet of others or in common areas. Additionally, staff are required to wear masks in accordance with Cape County Health Department guidelines.
- Pre-approved visitors may be required to wear masks / face coverings at times and screened using a district-approved screening measure. Individuals at risk may be denied access to the building.
- Those who are identified as having COVID-19 symptoms, will be encouraged to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated area to be picked up by families and sent home.
 - Individuals suspected of being exposed to COVID-19 may be excluded from entry into the building and the student will be escorted out.
 - Staff assisting with COVID-19 symptoms/screening will be supplied with appropriate PPE.

School Nurse Procedures

- CGPS Nursing staff providing health care will be provided with appropriate PPE.
- CPGS regularly keeps a log of health room visits. The name and phone number/address of all persons seen with fever and new cough will be recorded. Due to student privacy, these records are not public. However, information may be shared with the Health Department as appropriate.

General Procedures for Healthy Buildings

- Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned at least once a day, including the use of electrostatic cleaning machines.
- Bathrooms will be disinfected mid-morning, around noon, mid-afternoon and after student dismissal.
- Other frequently-touched common surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Teachers will wipe down desks and tables throughout the school day.
- The District has installed bottle filler stations throughout the buildings. Students may bring a water bottle with them to school.
- The District will utilize MERV 8 air filters in our heating, cooling, and ventilation systems

Support for the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs for Students and Staff

- 24/7 telehealth access to behavioral counseling and support services for staff through EBO
- Added district staff to support student behaviors
- Increased staff training to address the social-emotional needs of students
- Access to Community Counseling Crisis Counselor for students and staff
- Access to Community Counseling Center School-Based Therapists for students
- Access to other community agencies for counseling services for students and staff
- Access to District Social Workers and Student Support Specialists for students
- Professional Development on Staff Wellness
- Professional Development on Trauma Informed Practices and Restorative Discipline
- Teaching of Social Emotional Learning Skills

Mitigation and Prevention Strategies

Mitigation and Prevention Strategies

| Mitigation Strategy (as needed) | CGPS Response (as needed) |
|--|---|
| Universal and correct wearing of masks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings will be recommended at school, while riding the school bus, van, or any school vehicle. • Masks are provided by the school if needed. |
| Physical distancing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies are consistent with CDC/DHSS guidance. • Appropriate PPE is provided for staff as needed. • Signage in buildings encourages compliance. |
| Handwashing and respiratory etiquette | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper techniques for handwashing and infection prevention are shared with students. • Signage in buildings encourages compliance. • Staff members frequently remind students to wash hands and use hand sanitizer. |
| Daily monitoring/checking for signs and symptoms of illness or contact with COVID-positive individuals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are asked to monitor children for symptoms. • Students exhibiting symptoms must stay home until symptoms resolve. • School nurses and staff regularly monitor students for symptoms during the school day. |
| Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and supplies are cleaned regularly with special attention dedicated to surfaces most frequently touched. • HVAC improvements to aid in improving ventilation/air quality are ongoing. |
| Diagnostic and screening testing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free testing will be provided as supplies allow • Testing sites could be added on individual campuses. |
| Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students (as eligible) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination events have been hosted at schools for eligible staff members and students and will continue. • Information shared with staff about vaccination clinic opportunities and leave from work (continual) • Information shared on how to receive the vaccine at off-campus locations (continual) |
| Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodations provided as needed or dictated by Individual Education Plan (IEP). |

Suspected Case of COVID-19

In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, the following protocols will be followed as needed:

Scenario

- An employee or student doesn't feel well and visits the school nurse.
- The nurse determines symptoms may be COVID related.
- The employee or student will be temporarily separated from others.

Employee

- The employee and/or school nurse will notify the building principal / direct supervisor. The employee should remain home until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- After 4 days, if the employee still has symptoms, the school nurse should be contacted to schedule a test.
- If the employee tests positive for COVID, the District Contact Tracer will contact the employee and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing).
- The District Contact Tracer will ask the employee about all close contacts the employee had from the 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the employee began isolation measures.
- The District Contact Tracer will direct the individual and any other person at possible risk of being infected with what to do.
- Return to work will be communicated by the District Contact Tracer to the employee.

Student

- The school nurse will contact the parent/guardian and request that the student remain home until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- If the student tests positive for COVID, the District Contact Tracer will then contact the parent/guardian and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing).
- The parent/guardian will be asked about any close contacts the student may have had from the 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the student began isolation measures.
- The District Contact Tracer will direct the parent/guardian on what the student and any other person at possible risk of being infected with what to do.
- Readmittance to school will be communicated by the District Contact Tracer to the parent/guardian.

Additional Steps

1. If the employee has been told to self-isolate, he/she should contact his/her/their direct supervisor/principal. If the student has been told to self-isolate, the family will be requested to call the school. The school will check to see if there are siblings or other family members in Cape Girardeau Public Schools.
2. The principal/supervisor will contact the appropriate Central Office Administrator. This administrator will contact the Superintendent. The Superintendent will advise the Board of Education.
3. Superintendent will consider initiating the following CGPS Positive COVID-19 Protocols:
 - a. CGPS will consider closing the building temporarily for cleaning/sanitation.
 - b. Superintendent or his designee will contact the Health Department for additional guidance.
 - c. CGPS will work with the Health Department to provide any official communication regarding a COVID-19 case within the District while abiding by all Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines.
 - d. The building principal/supervisor will follow-up with the staff member or family of the student.

Communication

The District's primary method of communication is via text and email. Families will be contacted using the contact information in the student information database (Infinite Campus).

Please make sure personal contact information is up-to-date in the student information database including parent/guardian phone numbers, email addresses and physical address.

Updates may also be shared on the District's homepage, capetigers.com and/or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/capetigers). Building Facebook pages may be found by clicking on the links below.

[Early Childhood Center Facebook](#)

[Alma Schrader Elementary Facebook](#)

[Blanchard Elementary Facebook](#)

[Clippard Elementary Facebook](#)

[Franklin Elementary Facebook](#)

[Jefferson Elementary Facebook](#)

[Central Middle Facebook](#)

[Terry W. Kitchen Central Junior High Facebook](#)

[Central High Facebook](#)

[Central Academy Facebook](#)

[Cape Career and Technology Center Facebook](#)

Classroom teachers in K-4 may also use Class DoJo as a method of communicating with families.

Classroom teachers, extra-curricular sponsors / coaches at the secondary level (grades 5-12) may use Remind as a method of communication with families and students.

Anyone seeking help or information may contact the appropriate email address below. Please note that email addresses are not monitored 24/7. A response will be provided as quickly as possible.

District Help: Tigerhelp@capetigers.com

Early Childhood Center Help: ECChelp@capetigers.com

Alma Schrader Elementary Help: AlmaSchraderhelp@capetigers.com

Blanchard Elementary Help: Blanchardhelp@capetigers.com

Clippard Elementary Help: Clippardhelp@capetigers.com

Franklin Elementary Help: Franklinhelp@capetigers.com

Jefferson Elementary Help: JEhelp@capetigers.com

Central Middle School Help: CMShelp@capetigers.com

Terry W. Kitchen Central Junior High Help: CJHShelp@capetigers.com

Central High School Help: CHShelp@capetigers.com

Central Academy Help: CAhelp@capetigers.com

Cape Career & Technology Center Help: CTChelp@capetigers.com

Student Transportation

Bus transportation will continue to be provided. Appropriate masks should be worn properly while riding the school provided transportation as needed. A student should not load/ride the bus if he/she:

- has tested positive for COVID-19;
- is awaiting COVID-19 test results;
- or exhibits one or more symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms include but are not limited to:
 - a fever of 100° or higher without fever-reducing medication
 - cough;
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - chills;
 - repeated shaking with chills;
 - muscle pain;
 - headache;
 - nausea/vomiting;
 - diarrhea;
 - sore throat; and/or
 - new loss of taste or smell.
- Bus riders may be screened upon boarding the bus.
 - If a student is boarding the bus without a parent present and indicates a temperature of 100.0° or higher, the student will be assigned a seat in the front of the bus. Students with an elevated temperature will have their temperature checked a second time upon arrival to school. If the elevated temperature is still registering, the student will be taken to the isolation room where an additional temperature check with a different thermometer will be conducted. If indicated, the parent / guardian will be contacted and additional screening will occur.
- Bus drivers and monitors will watch for continued coughing or other symptoms and may request a student sit in a designated area on the bus.
 - The bus driver / monitor will immediately alert the school administration upon arrival.
- The bus driver / monitor will sanitize the rail frequently.
- Bus drivers and monitors will not work if they are sick.
- If a student has transportation written into their IEP plan, the IEP team will make the most appropriate decision for those students.
- **Loading / Unloading:** Avoid congestion as students load and unload buses.
 - Students will be loaded from the back to the front by bus stop as much as possible in order to minimize contact and risk while loading and unloading.
 - Students may be assigned seats.
 - Same households may be required to sit in the same row or in close proximity to each other.
 - Students must remain in their seats facing forward and must refrain from touching others.

CGPS School Closures and Continuity of Services

The decision to close Cape Girardeau Public Schools may be made as a means to prevent further spread of an epidemic, or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Student absenteeism - when it is not economically prudent to keep the school open;
- Staff absenteeism - when the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drop below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment;
- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19; and
- To protect the public health and safety as advised by local, state or federal officials.

The Superintendent will make individual school or District closure decisions in consultation with the Board of Education, District Administrative Team and the Cape Girardeau County Health Department. Current local, state and federal guidelines may also impact school closure decisions. If schools close, instruction will transition to virtual learning for all students.

Missouri Statute 171.033 allows schools to claim up to 36 hours of attendance each year if they have an Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. [The District will utilize these procedures operating under the guidelines of the DESE.](#)

Staff Procedures

Daily Self-Check

- Staff are asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor if they:
 - have tested positive for COVID-19;
 - are awaiting COVID-19 test results;
 - or exhibit one or more symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms include but are not limited to:
 - a fever of 100° or higher without fever-reducing medication
 - cough;
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - chills;
 - repeated shaking with chills;
 - muscle pain;
 - headache;
 - sore throat; and/or
 - new loss of taste or smell.
- Employees should not come to work under any circumstances if they are sick and should leave work immediately if they start to feel ill. Staff must be fever free for a minimum of 24 hours without fever reducing medication in order to return to work.
- Staff may participate in a daily self-check screening method depending on the level of spread in the community.

Masks

- All employees may be encouraged to wear a mask / shield / face covering when within 6 feet of others or in common areas depending on the level of spread in the community.
- All employees may be encouraged to wear a mask/shield/face covering if the District's average daily attendance drops below 90% for five consecutive days.
- Additionally, staff are required to adhere to the Cape County Health Department mask guidelines.
- Staff may bring their own face covering or one will be provided.

Additional Cleaning Guidelines

- Every building will have additional hand sanitizer stations and every classroom will have hand sanitizer.
- Clean hands and disinfect frequently touched items / surfaces.
 - This may include after coughing or sneezing, eating and handling food or touching things in “common” areas in the building.
- Consider regular “hand washing” breaks in the classroom.
- Cleaning supplies will be available for use in classrooms to assist in maintaining good health etiquette.

Periodic Revisions

This plan is intended to be a fluid document that will be revised if necessary, based on new information from the CDC, local health department, constituents, or any combination thereof. This review will take place no less than every 6 months beginning June, 2021. The District will provide communication to the community through every necessary channel as changes are made to the plan.

Revised July 22, 2021

Revised August 31, 2021

Revised October 14, 2021

Revised January 10, 2022

Revised January 21, 2022

Revised June 20, 2022

Approved by the CGPS Board June 27, 2022

Revised December 6, 2022

Reviewed June 22, 2023