

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



District Name: Gilmanon

District Contact: Kory Rud, Superintendent

Website: www.ghs.k12.wi.us

Phone: 715-946-3158

Address: S889 Larson Road, PO Box 28 Gilmanon, WI 54743

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Maintaining Health and Safety	2
Overview	2
Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students	2
Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction	2
Mitigation Measures	3
Universal and correct wearing of masks	3
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing	3
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	3
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	3
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	3
Diagnostic and screening testing	4
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	4
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices	4
Coordination with state and local health officials	4
Continuity of Services	5
Overview	5
District response on continuity of services	5
Periodic Review	5
Overview	5
District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan	6
Public Input	7
Overview	7
District response on public input in the development of its plan	7

Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

Maintaining Health and Safety

Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/pods); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Gilmanston School District will begin the 2023-24 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- COVID-19 pre-screening checklist may be communicated by the school nurse when symptoms are displayed.
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing illness or COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The Gilmanston School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2023-2024 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to a pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks will be available for all students to continue virtual learning.

If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to provide and distribute SSO meals.

The Gilmanston School District employs one part-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Gilmanon School Board monitors data to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. With the U.S. Department of Transportation's order expired, Gilmanon School District will monitor potential masking requirements during this school year.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and pods)

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals if needed.

Students will be assigned to blended learning in Google Classroom and the Infinite Campus student management system if public health conditions warrant the use of hybrid or distance instructional models.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS and other viruses.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Gilmanon School District will not continue contact tracing unless new information provided by the Buffalo County Health Department requests that the Gilmanon School District review COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. If conditions warrant, we may return to reporting the District COVID-19 case dashboard on the school website.

The Gilmanon School District may provide parents, students, and employees with screening protocols and current health information. Currently there are no contact tracing requirements by the school

administration, School Board, or the Buffalo County Health Department.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Gilmanton School District recommends students and staff find testing sites on their own for COVID-19. The District is aligned with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, who is not currently coordinating COVID-19 antigen testing at our school.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Staff and students' families will need to work with their medical doctors if they desire to continue with vaccinations.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

Coordination with state and local health officials

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The Gilmanton School District continues to work with Buffalo County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

Continuity of Services

Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

District response on continuity of services

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional counseling hours have been added to the District's mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to provide and distribute SSO meals.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through post-school hour meetings with the counseling staff and nursing staff. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

Other Staff Needs

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

Periodic Review

Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The Gilmanston School District will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

Public Input

Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

District response on public input in the development of its plan

The Gilman School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan was previously posted at <http://www.ghs.k12.wi.us>
- The plan was recently reviewed by the Gilman School District Board of Education meeting on June 26, 2023.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.