

2021-2022 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan for
Greenbush Middle River School
as of August 16, 2021



The Greenbush Middle River (GMR) School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff, students, guests and visitors. To ensure we have a safe and healthy workplace, the district has developed the following Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to attempt to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our school and community. Only through cooperative efforts can we establish and maintain the safety and health of all persons in our school.

This COVID-19 Plan follows the guidance developed by the State of Minnesota, which aligns with guidance and information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for COVID-19 and Minnesota's relevant and current executive orders. The industry guidance includes:

1. sick employees and students stay home and identification and isolation of sick persons;
2. social distancing – employees and students are encouraged to remain at least three to six feet apart wherever possible;
3. student and employee hygiene controls;
4. workplace building and ventilation protocol; and
5. workplace cleaning and disinfection protocol.

Other conditions and circumstances included in the industry guidance and addressed in this plan that are specific to our school include:

1. protocols for guests and visitors;
2. additional protections and protocols for personal protective equipment (PPE);
3. additional protections and protocol for sanitation and hygiene;
4. additional protections and protocols for handwashing;
5. additional protections and protocol for distancing and barriers;

Schedules and school programming will strive to return closer to traditional near-normal operations in the fall of 2021. This includes the following:

Schedule

K-12 School programming will be in-person, with regular start and end times following the regular school calendar.

Meals & Food Service

Breakfast and lunch will be FREE to all students in the 2021-2022 school year.

Funding for various school programs relies greatly on our families continuing to complete their Free & Reduced Meals Application for other funding sources in the school district. Because school meals have been FREE for the past 1.5 years, we have seen a decline in completion of the applications during the USDA free meals program. This has a negative financial impact for the school district in Compensatory Aid (funding for providing academic assistance to elementary age students). Please help the school out by completing your household's Free & Reduced Meals Application. Application is available on the school website.

Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria unless notified otherwise.

Seniors have the option to participate in "Open Lunch."

Vaccines

The school is not requiring COVID vaccinations for students, staff, visitors or volunteers. However, in accordance with CDC and Public Health, vaccination is encouraged for students 12 years old and above as well as adults.

Families interested in information about vaccines (locations, dates, etc.) may contact Roseau County Public Health/LifeCare Medical Center at 218-463-3211 for more details.

Social Distancing

Striving to create a physical distance of at least three feet apart between individuals when possible is *encouraged* at school but not required.

Face Coverings

GMR School District will review [CDC](#), [MDH](#), and [MDE](#) guidance regarding face covering requirements for K-12 Schools. GMR School District will review and adjust the face covering requirements as guidance changes or local data requires.

1. Face coverings will be **recommended**, but not required, for all students, staff and visitors to district facilities. Staff, students and visitors are permitted to wear face coverings if they choose to. Mask “shaming” is not permitted.
2. Face coverings will be **recommended**, but not required, for all individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
3. Face coverings **are required** on all public transportation, for all passengers and drivers, including school buses per [federal mandate](#).

Cleaning, Disinfecting, Sanitizing and Healthy Facilities

Cleaning routine protocols will continue to support mitigation of COVID using approved disinfecting cleaning products and used in accordance with product label instructions.

Drinking fountains will only be used in the bottle-filling mode; therefore, students and staff are encouraged to bring their own labeled water bottle.

Students:

1. A [self-assessment](#) is required for each student before entering school grounds or school transportation by the student, parent or caregiver. This is a good general health practice and was instrumental in slowing and preventing the spread of colds, flu’s and COVID.
2. Students must stay home if indicated by the self-assessment.
3. Parents, caregivers and students must contact their health care provider/Public Health immediately if:
 - a. You are experiencing symptoms as described in the self-assessment;
 - b. You have received a positive COVID-19 test; or
 - c. You have known exposure to COVID-19.
4. Parents or caregivers must contact the school Principal’s office immediately to report absences for students who are experiencing symptoms as described in the self-assessment. Student notifications of confirmed COVID-19 case exposure will follow MDH guidance.

Schools continue to be mandated to report positive COVID test cases to local public health and MDH.

Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 Handling a confirmed case of COVID-19 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Reportable Disease Rule

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html

Classrooms

1. Classroom seating will be configured with maximum allowable space between students.
2. Instructional plans will be created to limit the sharing of materials, limit shared equipment and maintain appropriate social distancing as possible.

Outdoor Recess / Physical Education

1. Outside recess and physical education will be encouraged.
2. Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using playground equipment.

Visitors

Visitors will once again be welcomed at school. Visitors report to the school office upon entrance into the building. Prior to entering school buildings, visitors should be aware of the following:

1. A [self-assessment](#) is required to be used for each visitor entering school grounds.
2. Visitors who are experiencing symptoms as described in the [self-assessment](#) are not to enter a building and should contact their medical professional for further direction.
3. Visitors may continue to be limited based on regional, state and federal recommendations.

Hygiene Practices

The school will ensure the availability of appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors and place supplies in areas where they may be frequently used.

Handwashing: The school will teach, model and provide time for handwashing and/or hand sanitizing routines in the daily schedule.

Staff and students are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially when working with shared items, prior to meals or snack time, or using the restroom.

Respiratory Etiquette:

Staff and students are instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing to avoid touching their face, in particular their nose, mouth or eyes with their hands.

Tissues should be disposed of and they should sanitize or wash their hands afterwards.

Special Education

Programming and services are based on the individual student's needs as determined by the individual education program (IEP) team and as documented in the IEP or 504 plan.

Transportation-Buses

All passengers and driver will wear a face covering while in school vehicles.

A driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.

Students will have assigned seats; students may be assigned by family/household or learning pods.

No eating or drinking on the bus.

No bus passes will be given out. Transportation change requests will be limited to childcare needs only; any and all communications must go through the school office.

Before and after school busing will be for students on the listed routes, there will be no transportation for students not listed on designated routes, unless there is a set routine at the beginning of the year. This means families are responsible for birthday party kids, friend overnights, any event that rides are needed for other students not on the original route.

Daily bus cleaning and disinfecting procedures will continue after each route or event trip.

Partnership with Health Agencies

The Greenbush Middle River School will collaborate on issues related to COVID with Roseau County Public Health, LifeCare Medical Center, MDE and MDH. Local COVID infection rates will be monitored in collaboration with the listed agencies.

Subject to Change

This plan and all areas of operation for Greenbush Middle River School are subject to change at any time due to new state and/or federal mandates regarding COVID. And, if necessary, the GMR School Board will make changes to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and community members.

