



Gladstone Area Schools

400 St. 10th St, Gladstone, MI 49837

August, 18, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians:

We are reaching out today to provide another update on the planning and preparation that has been ongoing as we put the pieces in place to be ready to re-open our school for the 2020-2021 School Year.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back to school for face to face instruction. The first official school day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st. As we've mentioned before, there will be a strong focus on safety and sanitation. Hand sanitizer and hand washing will be emphasized, and appropriate hygiene practices will be taught. In addition, all K-12 students will be required to wear masks while on our school buses and in our common areas like hallways. Since our K-5 students will be able to be self-contained in the classroom for instruction, they will not be required to wear masks during class. Students in grades 6-12 will be required to wear masks in classrooms. All of our students will be given opportunities for mask breaks throughout the day.

As you can imagine, a major concern as we begin the school year, is how everyone will handle the inevitable positive case of COVID-19. We have worked with the Health Department to be as prepared as we can be, and the health department has procedures and protocols mapped out. We are requesting that parents monitor their children for symptoms and take their temperature before sending them to school in the morning. A sample Student Screening protocol, developed by the health department, is included for your use. During the school day, if a student reports to us that they are not feeling well, and we monitor their symptoms and temperature, we will require that they be picked up from school if we suspect that they have COVID-19. If a student or staff member tests positive, the health department requires that they quarantine for at least 10 days since the symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours without a fever AND symptoms have improved. The health department will also work with the school and family to identify any "close contacts" who will also be required to quarantine and monitor for symptoms, under the guidance of the health department.

We know this is a lot of information to process, and we really want this school year to be as close to 'normal' as we can make. As information or recommendations from the state change, we will do our best to keep you in the loop and avoid any surprises. We ask that you try to understand that we are dealing with rapidly changing guidance and that we will do our best to use common sense.

Please feel welcome to reach out directly to the building principal, or to me, if you have specific questions.

Cameron Elementary – Grades K-2- Dr. Kristina Hansen – khansen@gladstone.k12.mi.us - 428-2314
Jones Elementary – Grades 3-5 – Mr. Dave Lindbeck – dlindbeck@gladstone.k12.mi.us – 428-3660
Middle School – Grades 6-8 – Mr. David Ballard – dballard@gladstone.k12.mi.us – 482-2295
High School – Grades 9-12 – Mr. Andrew Jacques – ajacques@gladstone.k12.mi.us – 428-9200
Superintendent – K-12 – Dr. Jay Kulbertis – jkulbert@gladstone.k12.mi.us – 428-2417

Jay Kulbertis

Student Screening

Before leaving for school, please make sure of the following screening. If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and put them at risk for spreading illness to others.

Symptoms

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Close Contact/Potential Exposure

In the past 14 days has your child:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19; OR
- Had a travel history

If the answer is **YES** to any of the **symptom** questions, keep your child(ren) home from school.

If the answer is **YES** to any symptoms question and **YES** to any close contact/potential exposure question, call the school as soon as possible to let them know the reason your child(ren) won't be there today. Call your healthcare provider right away. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to www.mi.gov/coronavirustest or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the symptom questions, but **NO** to any close contact/potential exposure questions, your student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms.

- Fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Sore throat: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- Cough/Shortness of breath: improvement
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- Severe headache: improvement

DISCLAIMER: This screening tool is subject to change based on the latest information on COVID-19.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)