

2020 - 2021
Two Rivers Supervisory Union
Green Mountain Union High School CoVid-19 Handbook



TRSU vision: *Students and adults of the Two Rivers Supervisory Union will collaborate, think critically, acquire and apply knowledge and solve problems creatively.*

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Let's Stay Safe Together...

Two Rivers/GMUHS COVID-19 Handbook

All schools will be required to abide by the guidelines as put forth by the Governor, the CDC, the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education to safeguard the well-being of students and staff.

Keeping Safe Together

We seek families' understanding if some of these measures cause inconvenience. They are necessary safety precautions during these exceptional times, and we thank everyone for their cooperation. We also seek families' help to reinforce safe habits with students at home, so that students practice these habits consistently.

We seek families' understanding and support if we need to implement any measure that may affect your school or child's class as a result. **If someone in any class has a presumptive case of CoVid-19, the entire class may need to stay at home and Zoom for class time.**

As things change, this document may need to be updated. In that case we will notify you of the changes.

Everyone plays a part to keep our school safe. Let's stay safe together.

Support from Families to Keep Everyone Safe

All of us play an important part in keeping our school community safe. It is important that all staff, students and families adopt COVID-Safe habits and norms to reduce the risk of transmission when schools reopen. We seek the support of families to work together with your student's school in the implementation of the following safety measures:

Students/staff should be excluded from in-person school if they (from VT Agency of Education, <https://education.vermont.gov/covid19>):

- Show symptoms of CoVid-19, such as a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell;
- Have been in close contact with someone with CoVid-19 in the last 14 days;
- Have a fever (temperature higher than 100.4 °F);
- Have a significant new rash, particularly when other symptoms are present;
- Have large amounts of nasal discharge in the absence of allergy diagnosis.

Safe distancing outside of school

- We encourage families to avoid social gatherings for students across different classes outside of the school to reduce the risk of widespread transmission.
- If you decide to travel to another state, you and your child must quarantine for 14 days unless it is to the counties within states that Vermont has deemed safe. To see if you need to quarantine, please check this link: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel> This map is updated every Friday.
- You may also avoid 14 days quarantine if you have proof of a negative PCR coronavirus test when you re-entered the state. Then you only need to quarantine for 7 days.

☑ Health checks and temperature screening

- Health checks and temperature screening will be conducted for all students and staff upon entry to the school or when they get on the bus. The health checks will look for general signs of students feeling unwell, such as fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, repeated shaking with chills, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea or new loss of taste or smell, as well as the taking of each individuals temperature.
- Any student or staff who is unwell will not be allowed into the school.
- Families are advised to seek medical attention promptly if their child is unwell.

☑ When a student is ill at school

- In the event that a student will miss school due to illness, you should contact your school on how to access their work/learning.
- If a child becomes ill at school, parents/guardians/caregivers will be contacted to pick-up their child.
- The student will be placed in an appropriate isolation room to protect others from being exposed and will wait for pick-up. Students need to be picked up immediately, so please have appropriate plans in place.
- All FERPA and HIPAA privacy requirements will be followed.
- Emergency contact information must be kept current for everyone's well being.
- **We must have a valid contact number for emergencies. If we have tried to contact parents/ emergency contacts and we cannot reach anyone 2 times, we may have to remove your child from in-person learning.**
- We will be asking for updates of this information monthly in case of changes.

☑ When can I come back to school?

- Students should stay at home to rest and should return to the school only when fully recovered.
- If CoVid-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member, the school will work with the Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Education to determine when the student or staff member may return.
- General guidelines are that students should stay at home to rest and may only return after:
 - 10 days from initial symptoms **and**
 - fever free (and without fever reducing medication) for 48 hours **and**
 - symptoms have improved (per CDC guidelines) **and**
 - are no longer considered contagious; this will be determined based on the guidelines from the Department of health and on a case by case basis.
- Students and staff with a fever greater than 100.4°F and no specific diagnosis should remain at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours **without the use of fever-reducing medications** (e.g., Advil, Tylenol) and are symptom free.

☑ Restriction of visitors in schools

- Parents/Guardians/Families and visitors are not allowed into the school during the school day.
- Parent/teacher meetings are to be carried out via telephone or online (e.g. Zoom).

☑ Wearing of facial coverings

- All staff and students must wear masks/cloth coverings. We understand that some students may have difficulties wearing a mask, for example, students with special needs and medical issues. Face shields may be used as an alternative if we have a documented medical reason.
- There may be times, such as during meals, when it is not practical or safe for students to wear masks or face shields.
- Caregivers should ensure that students bring and wear their masks/face shields to school, and work with the school to teach students the proper use, cleaning, handling and disposal of masks/face shields.
- The school will be providing each child with 2 facial coverings. Make sure you label the mask with your child's name.
- Facial coverings need to be school appropriate in design.
- Facial coverings need to be washed daily.

☑ Practice good personal hygiene

- Everyone should wash hands frequently with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, especially before eating or handling food, after bathroom visits, when hands are soiled after coughing or sneezing, upon arrival at school, before and after switching classrooms or locations, before and after recess, or handling of the facial coverings.
- Students should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or into their elbow when sneezing or coughing, and throw away the tissue immediately into a trash bin and wash/sanitize their hands.
- Students should avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- There will be no sharing of food/drinks, utensils, water bottles and other classroom equipment/materials.
- We have arranged for each student to have their own supplies that are not to be shared.
- Students cannot bring in food to be shared with the class (i.e. birthday cupcakes).

☑ Safe bussing

- A Schedule will be distributed before the beginning of school and is subject to change.
- Students will have a health screening before they board the bus. An adult needs to be present in case the student does not pass the health screening. They will not be allowed on the bus if they do not pass.
- All students must have a mask on in order to ride the bus and must stay in their assigned seat.
- Students who can't follow the rules will jeopardize their ability to ride the bus.

☑ Schedules

- Grades 7 and 8 will have their normal 7 period day, with their core classes going all year. Their electives will be the same each day and switch each quarter marking period.
- Grades 9-12 will have a modified block schedule. Students who have math will have that class and possibly another all year long. Their other classes will be semester long and change in January.

☑ Beginning and end of the day

- School will open at 7:15 and no-one should be dropped off or arrive prior to this time.
- Buses will be dropping students off at the beginning of the circle and students coming off the bus will enter the school through the door by the bandroom.
- Students being driven to school by means other than the bus will be screened prior to getting out of their vehicle. As usual you will need to drive up in the inner circle, this includes students who drive themselves to school.
- During inclement weather we will use a back up plan of screening students in the Art Gallery or Cafeteria lobby.
 - At that time, those students being dropped off in a personal vehicle or coming in their own personal vehicle will, in order to not come in contact with the students who have already been screened, will enter through the main entrance (grades 7, 8, 10 and 12) or through the door leading to the cafeteria/gym lobby (grades 9 and 11).
 - When this occurs those students will enter the Art Gallery or Cafeteria lobby and they will line up on the perimeter (there will be X's on the floor for them to stand and be socially distant) and be health screened.
 - Parents should remain in their vehicle and wait several minutes before leaving to make sure their child(ren) has/have been cleared to be in the school.
- Breakfast will be available in the office lobby and will need to be eaten in their first period/advisory class.
- After students enter they should go to their locker and then High School students will go to their first period class and Middle School students will go to their Advisory.
- Students will not be allowed to hang out in the hallway.
- There will be lines on the floor (spaced six feet apart) to help students remain socially distant.
- When dismissing your child(ren) early (please email Kelly Goodrich (kelly.goodrich@trsu.org) rather than giving your child a note).
- At the end of the day, parents should remain in their car and wait for their child(ren) to come to them.

☑ Wednesdays

- Wednesdays will be done remotely. With students and teachers meeting via Zoom.
- We will have Advisory, and attendance for the day will be taken at this time. (8:30 am)
- This will be a day for students to catch up on work, check in with their teachers for help. (9:00 to 11:00 and then after lunch by appointment).
- Any student assigned a help session by a teacher/staff member must attend the session or it will be considered cutting class.
- After lunch, classes, clubs, and other groups can have meetings.

☑ lockers and bathrooms

- The 7th and 8th grade will have lockers on the third floor.
- The 12th and 10th grade will have lockers on the second floor.
- The 11th and 9th grade will have lockers on the first floor.
- Students will use the bathrooms in the hallway they have their lockers on.

☑ Hallways and Stairwells

- In the morning, hallways will be one way, moving toward the back of the school, as much as possible. When students have finished at their lockers, they may need to go the other way to get to class.
- At the end of the day, hallways will be one way, moving toward the front of the school, as much as possible. When students have finished classes, they may need to go the other way to get to their locker.
- During the day, the main hallways will be one way.
 - The first floor will flow toward the front of the school.
 - The second floor will flow toward the back of the school.
 - The third floor will flow toward the front of the school.
- The front hallway leading from the auditorium to the nurses office will be two ways and students/staff should remain to the right.
- The front hallway leading to/from the cafeteria will be two ways and students/staff should stay to the right.
- All stairwells will be two ways and students/staff should stay to the right.
- All two way halls and stairs will have a divider down the middle.

☑ Classrooms/classes

- Classrooms will have their desks/tables in rows all facing the same way and students will be at least 5 feet apart.
- Teachers are being encouraged to use digital platforms for handing in work and limiting paper copies.
- Students will have supplies given to them to keep as their own, as they can't share supplies.
- When students need to go to the bathroom they will sign-out from the class in the teacher's log.
- For grades 7 and 8, students will be kept in a cohort and move from class to class as a group.
- At the end of each period, to limit the number of students in the hallway, dismissals will be staggered.
- For grades 9-12 We will keep as many students as possible together in cohorts; however to accommodate students' selection of classes, there will be mixing of students from one block to another.
- To limit student contacts, we will be doing a modified 4x4 block where the majority of classes will be semester long.

☑ Library

- The library, as a library, will be closed to students (it may be used as a classroom for our larger classes).
- Students who need a book will communicate with the Librarian and she will deliver books to them.
- Students who are in the library with their class can not go into the stacks and touch the books.
- When students are done with their book, they will return them to drop boxes located around the school.
- The librarian will collect the books and clean them prior to putting them back on the shelf.

☑ Lunches/Cafeteria

- There will be no microwaves available for student use.
- Students will not be able to give money/check at the time of getting their lunch. Money should be entered into the system online or sent in an envelope to the main office.
- Students will be dismissed by classroom to go down and get their lunch.
- Students purchasing lunch will not enter their number, but rather have their name checked and the cost will be deducted from their account later.

☑ Physical Education

- Classes will be individualized and students will mostly be doing cardio/strength training.
- The weight room will not be accessible.

☑ Athletics

- The fall sports seasons will begin September 8th for Middle and High School sports.
- On Remote Wednesday's there will be no middle school practice.
- All athletes and spectators must wear a mask. With the exception of Cross Country runners. Those race times will be staggered.
- A parent MUST present a detailed doctor's note to why a student/athlete CAN NOT wear a mask in order to be waived from this requirement.
- The State/VPA has said that when we move from phase II to the less restrictive phase III we can begin to have scrimmages against other schools and then resume a schedule of games.
 - When that happens we will do our best to reschedule league games and to keep our teams playing as close to home as possible.
 - We strongly suggest that for any away competitions that you drive your athletes to the venue and home.
 - We will allow parents to transport other athletes with written permission from all parents involved.
 - At no time will athletes be allowed to drive themselves.
 - Buses will be available for those who do not have transportation.
- There will be a 150 spectator limit at all events.

☑ Communication

- Communication that is pertinent to the entire TRSU will be disseminated by the Superintendent's Office.
- Information pertaining specifically to GMUHS will be communicated by the building principal.
- The Two Rivers Supervisory Union and GMUHS websites will be a resource for parent information involving the CoVid-19 pandemic.

☑ Other considerations

- We will be spending more time outdoors with our classes. Please make sure your child has their own water bottle, sun screen, bug spray, hat and sunglasses. Make sure you label all of your children's equipment. Please try to be sensitive to those with allergies and use unscented products.
- In addition to the two masks and the water bottle we will provide for each student, we will be giving them a refillable, small bottle of hand sanitizer for them to carry in their bag.
- Students should bring their books and computer home each day. Students should be prepared in the event we need to shut down the school and go back to doing remote learning full-time.

☑ Some helpful links for added information

Vermont Agency of Education: <https://education.vermont.gov/>

<https://education.vermont.gov/documents/guidance-strong-healthy-start-health-guidance>

Vermont Department of Health: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

**☑ Our COVID Coordinator is Katrina Boissonnault, who is our School Nurse.
Her phone number: 802-875-4154**