

# **Gavin School District 37**

## **Back to School Learning Plan 2021-2022**



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District 37 is planning to return to full capacity, in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. We will remain responsive to regulatory guidance, local health metrics, and will inform families if changes are needed to our learning plans.

The District will begin the 2021-22 school year with restrictions still in place as per updated guidance from Centers for Disease Control and [Joint Public Health Guidance](#) from the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health.

## **Throughout the remainder of this plan, we attempt to provide clarity as to what the 21-22 school year will look like:**

### **Instructional Planning Basics**

- Gavin 37 schools will be open fully for in-person learning.
  - Students with a significant medical condition that place them at an increased risk for in-person learning will have the option to submit documentation for consideration of a fully remote learning option. Medical documentation from a current medical provider will be required for this to be considered. Parents seeking full remote instruction should contact Sean Connelly in the Student Services Department at [sconnelly@gavin37.org](mailto:sconnelly@gavin37.org) or at 847-546-9336 ext 321.
- Physical distancing of 3' in instructional areas and 6' in cafeterias will be observed, or to the greatest extent possible.
- Assigned seats will be provided in classrooms, lunchrooms, and busses to help identify close contacts in the event of a positive case.
- Pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2021- 18, issued on August 4, 2021, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, including students, staff, and visitors **must** wear a face covering inside Illinois school buildings, unless an individual cannot wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask due to a documented medical condition. The District will fully implement this mandate for all staff, students, and visitors at the start of the 2021-2022 school year with a promise to discuss removing layers of mitigation (including mask wearing) based on the presence of the virus in our local area.
- Athletics and extracurricular activities will run with layered mitigations in place.
- Contact tracing in combination with quarantine, mask wearing, hand hygiene, health checks and illnesses, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfection strategies, screening testing, and enhanced ventilation will be in effect. Details of each of these mitigation measures are outlined below.
- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our area. In addition, Gavin 37 staff will work to help coordinate vaccine information for anyone in need of support.

## Layered Mitigation Strategies

The following layered mitigation strategies will be in effect at all times when on school grounds:

### 1. Contact Tracing

- a. The District's contact tracing team will use IDPH guidelines to determine close contacts to a positive COVID-19 individual. This team will require appropriate isolation and quarantine measures, in partnership and in consultation with the local health department.
- b. The definition of a close contact is within 3' in a classroom setting and with 6 ft when masks are off (ie. cafeteria).
- c. The District shall report positive cases to the local health department, as required.
- d. Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID 19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care. **When in doubt – please stay home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.**
- e. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-19-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or be restricted from school or extracurricular activities. CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals test three to five days after a close contact exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Gavin 37 will provide these tests free of charge.
- f. Students who are quarantined as a result of COVID-19 will receive “eyes and ears” into the classroom. Additional information about remote learning services when quarantined due to IDPH regulations are contained in a later section in this document.
- g. Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 are to call to check in with the school's health assistants.

### 2. Quarantining

- a. Unvaccinated classroom contacts within 3 feet require quarantine as long as both the positive case and the contact were consistently masked. If they were not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- b. The duration of quarantine has been modified. The description of quarantine options for unvaccinated individuals is below. Vaccinated individuals deemed close contacts that remain asymptomatic will not need to quarantine.
- c. In collaboration with the Lake County Health Department, we will determine the length of quarantine.
  - i. Option 1: Quarantine at home for 14 calendar days. Date of last exposure is considered day 0.

- ii. Option 2: Quarantine for 10 calendar days after the close contact's last exposure to the COVID 19 case. Date of last exposure is considered day 0. The individual may end quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms of COVID-19 developed during daily monitoring. SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is recommended and **may be required** by the local health department. The individual must maintain physical distance and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.
- iii. Option 3: Quarantine period is for seven calendar days after the last exposure if no symptoms developed during daily monitoring AND the individual has a negative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test (PCR) that was collected within 48 hours of exposure day 7 (starting on day 6 or after).
- iv. Option 4: Test to Stay Strategy, as has been documented by CDC, if schools test close contacts, as defined above, on day 1, 3, 5, and 7 seven from date of exposure by a PCR or rapid antigen or molecular emergency use authorization (EUA)-approved test, close contacts are permitted to remain in the classroom as long as the results are negative.

### **3. Face Coverings:**

- a. Per Governor's orders, masks will be required for students, teachers, staff, and visitors at pre-kindergarten-12th grade schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- b. Regardless of vaccination status, masks must be worn by all individuals while on a school bus ([CDC Order](#)).
- c. In general, masks do not need to be worn outdoors.
- d. Per IDPH and IHSA guidance, different rules apply for masking during athletics beyond the school day. In short, masks are not required for outdoor sports for athletes or spectators; masks are required for indoor sports for athletes and spectators.
- e. Students should come to school with their own mask every day, but we will have a supply of disposable face coverings in the event that an individual does not have one for use or needs a replacement mid-day.

### **4. Hand Hygiene:**

- a. Students and staff must practice good hand hygiene, including washing hands frequently for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer when washing is not available.
- b. There will be hand sanitizer stationed around the building for staff and student use.
- c. School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, assisting young children with handwashing, and reminding everyone in

the facility to wash hands frequently.

## **5. Health Checks and Illness:**

- a. Districts are not mandated to use a self-certification process for this year. However, the firm expectation is that parents keep their students home and immediately notify the school district if their student is exhibiting any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
- b. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19 and should refrain from attending school or extracurricular activities: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- c. People should not report to school if they have any currently known [symptoms of COVID-19](#), they are positive for COVID-19, or if unvaccinated and have been in close contact with someone that tested positive for COVID-19.
- d. Any individual presenting with COVID-19 symptoms will be moved to a quarantine area and assessed by the school's health assistant or qualified professional. With parental consent, the administration of a SHIELD PCR or BINAX test, will be provided. If necessary, a parent or guardian may be requested to immediately pick up their child.
- e. Students or staff members who test positive will not be allowed to return to school until CDC/IDPH/LCHD standards for recovery have been met.
- f. The district will notify families if a student has been identified as a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the school setting.
- g. Parents/staff are required to notify the school district if students/staff is identified as a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- h. PCR and antigen testing will be available (BINAX) as an additional mitigation measure for symptomatic individuals.

## **6. Physical Distancing:**

- a. Physical distancing of 3' in instructional areas and 6' in cafeterias will be observed, to the greatest extent possible.
- b. School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Along with the cafeteria, additional spaces for mealtime seating will be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting). Students and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating.
- c. Physical distancing measures are to be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts).

## **7. Sanitation:**

- a. Schools will be cleaned and sanitized every day, including regular use of electrostatic sprayers in learning spaces.
- b. Classrooms will have access to disinfectant as needed for use throughout the day.
- c. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building for staff and student use.

## **8. Screening Testing:**

- a. The District will offer free SHIELD screening testing on a voluntary basis twice weekly for:
  - i. Unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals
  - ii. Athletic and extracurricular activities, as per CDC guidance
  - iii. Symptomatic individuals or individuals in close contact regardless of vaccination status
  - iv. Taking advantage of the Test to Stay option to avoid quarantining
- b. There will be an Opt-In Consent form available in Family Access (no testing will be completed without parent consent).
- c. Testing is optional for all staff and available to community members.
  - i. A community member interested in SHIELD testing should contact Kaisha Montejo at 847-546-9336 ext 212.
- d. When a student is symptomatic, the district will provide a BinaxNow test with parent consent.

## **9. Ventilation:**

- a. Enhanced ventilation practices are in effect, including HEPA filtration air purifiers in nurse and front office areas, and increased outside air flow.

# **Practices and Procedures**

## **1. Academics:**

- a. Traditional academic practices and grading procedures will be in effect for the 2021-2022 school year.
- b. If a student is under mandatory quarantine, they will be able to access learning via Zoom into their teacher's classroom. Middle school students are expected to follow the daily bell schedule while in quarantine.
- c. Teachers will provide the Zoom link to a child in quarantine to provide access to the learning environment remotely. We may need up to 24 hours to provide access.

## **2. Assigned Seating:**

- a. Students will have assigned seating in every classroom and must remain in seats. Physical distancing of 3' will take place in classrooms, to the greatest extent

possible. Assigned seats will also be given in the cafeteria and on the bus. Siblings will sit together on the bus.

**3. Athletics & Activities:**

- a. Athletics and activities will be permitted to occur with all activities complying with health and safety procedures set forth by IDPH, IHSA, and District 37.
- b. Students must meet eligibility requirements for participation.
- c. Activities may be paused at any time by directive, illness or other.
- d. Masks are required for all indoor spectators and athletes. Masks are not required for outdoor spectators and athletes.

**4. Attendance Expectations:**

- a. All students are expected to attend in-person daily.
- b. Normal attendance policies will be in effect for the 2021-2022 school year. If students will not be attending classes as scheduled, parents/guardians must call the attendance office prior to 10:00 A.M. to report the absence.
- c. Remote instruction will only be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine **or** who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, **only while they are under quarantine** consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine.
- d. If you are eligible for remote instruction while under required quarantine and are not present remotely, you will be considered absent.

**5. Cafeteria:**

- a. Physical distancing of 6' will take place in the cafeteria, to the greatest extent possible.
- b. Meals are at no cost to students during the 2021-2022 school year.
- c. Student meals will be available for pick up during the 2021-22 school year if the student is under quarantine. Please contact your school's front office staff to coordinate.

**6. Field Trips:**

- a. Field trips will be limited until state and local health officials have determined that it is safe to resume them. We will encourage teachers to pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips.

**7. Learning Management System:**

- a. Technology is an important tool to support teaching and learning. All District 37 staff and students will be expected to utilize Google Classroom as a digital hub for instruction and communication.



- b. Teachers will continue to post instructional expectations every day.

**8. Lockers:**

- a. Use of lockers will be permitted.
- b. Students should not congregate at lockers.
- c. Locker use may be restricted, if necessary.

**9. Transportation:**

- a. School buses will operate at normal capacity.
- b. Regardless of vaccination status, masks must be worn by all individuals while on a school bus ([CDC Order](#)).
- c. Student pick up in the afternoon will take place at the main entrance. The District will make every effort to maintain open parking spaces for parents to utilize while awaiting students at the end of the day.
  - i. Gavin South: Drop Off- Students should be dropped off at the entrance to the teacher parking lot on the West side of the building. Parents should drive up the driveway and stay to the right. Enter the teacher lot and loop around. Parents can then drop their student off at the entrance to the teacher lot before exiting toward Rt. 134. Dropping off at the front of the building between 7:35 and 7:50 can block busses and cause delays.
  - ii. Gavin South: Pick Up-Parents should line up at the entrance to the teacher lot. Busses will be lined up in the front of the building. Parking in front of the building between 2:00-2:25 can cause dismissal delays and/or result in parent cars being blocked in parking spots by busses. Once busses have left the front of the building to begin their afternoon routes, parents can pull around the front of the building. Students being picked up will be dismissed from Door #3. If parents are picking up before dismissal, sign out in the main office is required.
  - iii. Gavin Central: Drop Off : Enter off of Ridge Road; enter into the right side of the parking lot. Follow traffic around the North parking lot into the front circle. Students will exit your vehicle in the front circle at Door #1 (Main Entrance). Exit straight
  - iv. Gavin Central: Pick Up: Enter off of Ridge Road; enter into the right side of the parking lot. Follow traffic around the North parking lot into the front circle. Students will enter your vehicle in the front circle at Door #1 (Main Entrance). If parents are picking up before dismissal, sign out in the main office is required.

**10. Visitors:**

- a. For individuals that need to visit campus, all safety protocols in place for staff and students shall be followed.

- b. All visitors shall enter through the main entrance
- c. Masking policy in effect must be followed by visitors at all times in the building.
  - i. Masks will be required for all visitors.

#### **11. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs**

- a. Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager to discuss the need(s).
- b. Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do I need to wear a mask?**

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced masks will be required for students, teachers, and staff at pre-kindergarten-12th grade schools.

2. **How much physical distancing will be maintained?**

Every effort will be made to maintain 3' of physical distancing in instructional spaces and 6' in the cafeteria.

3. **What will seating look like in the cafeteria?**

As per guidance, physical distancing of 6' in the cafeteria will be observed to the greatest extent possible. Assigned seats will be given.

4. **What will seating look like on the school bus?**

All capacity restrictions that were in place last year have been eliminated. As such, regular school bus capacity will be observed. Please note that the CDC requires that **masks must be worn by all individuals while on school buses**. Siblings will likely sit together and social distancing will be honored to the greatest extent possible. Assigned seats will be provided to help with contact tracing.

5. **Will screening testing be available?**

Yes. The District will utilize the SHIELD saliva test. Students and staff may take a COVID test and receive highly accurate results within 24 hours. Screening testing is an effective mitigation strategy that will take place on a voluntary basis and as recommended by CDC, IDPH and ISBE. BINAX testing will also be available in the event a symptomatic individual needs to be tested immediately.

6. **Can you provide me more information on quarantining:**

Quarantine if you have been in [close contact](#) (within 3 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period in a classroom setting) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been [fully vaccinated](#). People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have [symptoms](#). However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

### **What to do?**

(Gavin 37 will work with the families to identify the best options based on the circumstances).

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4 F), cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at [higher risk](#) for getting very sick from COVID-19.

#### **After quarantine**

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider

### **7. Can you tell me more about the Test to Stay option?**

- I. Students are only eligible for the test to stay program if:
  - A. Students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks and the school requires universal indoor masking for all individuals (age 2 and older), regardless of vaccination status, as recommended by the CDC.
  - B. Consent is provided to agree to on-site testing
  - C. The exposure happened outside of their household
- II. *Students engaged in Test to Stay after an exposure may participate in extracurricular activities. However, local health departments have the authority to order a classroom only Test to Stay protocol after assessing the risk of an individual situation.*
- III. *Local health departments have the authority to assess high-risk exposures and order a traditional quarantine without the option for Test to Stay.*

### **8. Will middle schoolers be changing classes?**

Yes.

### **9. Will grades 6-8 be changing clothes for PE?**

Yes.