

# Green Forest Schools

COVID-19 Guidelines for Students and Parents 2021-2022

Ready for Learning Q and A



The Green Forest School District will adhere to Arkansas Department of Health guidelines to provide a safe learning environment. The following information is based on the Arkansas Department of Education's 2021-2022 Guidance for Schools and is intended to answer questions students and parents may have about the start of this school year.

Fully-vaccinated students or staff do not need to quarantine if deemed close contacts, unless they have/develop symptoms.

Individuals exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not need to be quarantined if they have no symptoms and both the infected and exposed individual consistently and correctly were wearing a mask.

## What is the first day for students?

School will begin on August 16, 2021.

## Who will be required to wear face coverings?

Currently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending all individuals wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status. We are **strongly recommending** that adults and students wear face coverings when physical distancing cannot be achieved.

## Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students.

## Will visitors be allowed at school?

Under current ADH guidance, visitors will not be allowed in the school except for the reception area. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their children. Schools will discontinue large group gatherings (assemblies, pep rallies, etc.). Green Forest Schools has always welcomed parental support in our buildings; however, with the current guidance, visitors are not allowed in buildings. This guidance may change at a later time, but it is the guidance we have today. Visits to the school will be limited to essential activity.

**How normal will the day be for a student?**

Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another. Sanitation will take place before a new group of students enter a space.

**Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance and library?**

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction. In some cases, the teacher may present their lesson in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning possible. In others situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to their classroom.

**Will social distancing guidelines be observed?**

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 3 ft. apart from each other. We will modify classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but cannot always guarantee it will be 3 ft.

**Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?**

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches or comfy chairs being removed. It might include dividers between students who are seated at a table. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit student's ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom. Sharing of supplies and materials will be limited.

**Will students attend school every day or will we have some type of alternative schedule?** We plan for students to attend school daily following a very similar schedule to the traditional school day.

**If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?**

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the ADH.

**If I don't want my student to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?**

Green Forest Schools will not be offering a virtual option this year. Parents who do not wish for their student to be at school for onsite instruction will need to complete paperwork for homeschool or enroll in Arkansas Virtual Academy.

**Will my student eat lunch in their classroom?**

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We anticipate this may either mean we will be required to adjust

lunch schedules or use alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces or potentially have lunch in their classroom on a very limited basis. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal and ADH guidelines will be followed. **Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students.** Water filling stations are available on all campuses but there are no water fountains.

**What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?**

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. We will be sanitizing high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. We will provide hand sanitizer throughout our campuses.

**If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?**

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school nurse. If the student tests positive for COVID-19, a release letter will be required from a medical professional for the student to return on campus.

**What happens if we have school closures again?**

If schools close again, a plan for blended learning has been developed. Students will be held accountable for their assignments. Work will be graded and expected to be turned in to your child's teacher.

**Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?**

Depending on guidance from ADH, arrival and dismissal times may be varied, in order to increase social distancing and to decrease the number of students in the cafeteria and gym before school starts.