



Ganado
Independent School District

Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

2021-2022

“Every Student Counts ... Every Moment Matters”

Introduction

As Ganado ISD remains 100% open, protocols and information for parents have been updated. This plan is the Ganado ISD's guidance on the safe return to in-person instruction. Guidance concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) will be updated every six months as mandated by the Texas Education Agency. The information in these guidelines outlines the current best practices provided by federal, state and local health officials for removing or preventing COVID-19 in the learning/work environment.

The safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors are a priority for Ganado ISD as the district welcomes all students and employees back to our campuses for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Ganado ISD **will not** offer remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Campuses will provide tutoring and interventions; schedules for these will be communicated at the beginning of the school year.
- Before and after school tutoring and intervention as well as summer school are offered.
- Each campus has a counseling program to address social emotional needs.
- Communities in Schools will also be available at the secondary campus for extended social emotional services to at-risk students.

Many of the safety measures that Ganado ISD implemented during the 2021-2022 school year will continue with guidance from the CDC. The measures we will continue to practice include having access to hand sanitizer stations throughout our facilities, social distancing, and optional wearing of masks. We will follow CDC guidance and federal government guidelines for required mask changes if needed.

This guidance addresses both staff and student responsibilities as it relates to COVID-19 precautions and responsibilities. The information will be repetitive as some of the same procedures apply.

COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

Ganado ISD has developed a COVID-19 Response Team to respond to concerns and communicate district decisions. Members of the team and email addresses are noted below:

1. Erin Fasel	Superintendent	efasel@ganadoisd.net
2. Wendy Nixon	Business Manager	wnixon@ganadoisd.net
3. Tina Walch	Administrative Assistant	twalch@ganadoisd.net
4. Diane Koop	District Nurse	dkoop@ganadoisd.net
5. Kathy Edwards	Secondary Principal	kedwards@ganadoisd.net
6. Jennifer Stephenson-Smiga	Elementary Principal	jstephenson@ganadoisd.net
7. Bert Skoruppa	Director of Maintenance	bskoruppa@ganadoisd.net
8. Brent Bennett	Athletic Director	bbennett@ganadoisd.net
9. Jordin Jones	Girls Athletic Coordinator	jjones@ganadoisd.net
10. Melissa Cunningham	Technology Director	mcunningham@ganadoisd.net
11. Sarah Woodring	Director of C, I & A	swoodring@ganadoisd.net

FACE MASKS

The Ganado ISD school board passed a mask resolution to remove the required use of masks on March 24, 2021. CDC guidance encourages the use of face masks in public settings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 however Ganado ISD will not require face masks in 2021-2022 unless the pandemic guidance changes.

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

Ganado ISD will allow visitation to the campuses by appointment during the school day. Please contact the appropriate campus or district office to setup in person visits.

- Visitors will be required to follow virus prevention and mitigation requirements of the school. This will include a self-screening prior to entering any school building. If a visitor is symptomatic, please stay home.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms.
- Meet the teacher, assemblies, open house, parent conferences, etc. will be held in person. Please try to limit the number of visitors for Meet the Teacher and Open House. Virtual parent conferences will still be allowed.

CAFETERIA OPERATIONS

Students and visitors should sanitize or wash their hands before entering the cafeteria or in the facilities available in the cafeteria.

- Lunch visits in 2021-2022 will be on a scheduled basis only to avoid large crowds. Please visit with the campus principal about the schedule for lunch visits.
- Parents bringing food for students will only be allowed to provide food to their own child(ren).

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

There are not travel restrictions planned for the 2021-2022 school year. Travel restrictions may return if the COVID situation changes. The district will follow the recommendations of the CDC, TEA and local health authorities.

MODIFIED FACILITIES

- As feasible, students will socially distance in classrooms.
- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- Teachers will consider cleanliness of manipulatives and will work to reduce the possibility of exposure or consider creating individual bags of supplementary aids or manipulatives.
- The use of outdoor space will be considered when possible.
- Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain groupings of people to minimize exposure.

ENHANCED CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Operation Services has a high standard for cleanliness and safety and are committed to upholding those standards with intensive cleaning process. Enhanced cleaning protocols have been put in place as a result of COVID-19 and are based on current local health and government guidelines.

We will focus on the following high touch services to ensure that the proper disinfection takes place:

- Doorknobs/Handles
- Countertops
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Restroom fixtures
- Desks
- Keyboards and mouse
- Phones

Areas of Enhanced Focus

- Restrooms
- Offices
- Kitchen/break areas
- Vending machines
- Copiers/printers
- Front desk and lobby areas
- Equipment

We will provide Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectants) for all district employees as requested.

CLOSE CONTACT

“Close contact” is coming into contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. In general, close contact is defined as:

1. Being directly exposed to infectious secretions; or
2. Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however additional factors like mask wearing, ventilation, dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either 1 or 2 defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of an asymptomatic individual, the infectious period is two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days follow the confirmed lab test.

CONTACT TRACING

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, our Nurse and campus administration will conduct contact tracing. Only those known to have been in close contact will quarantine.

- Any vaccinated person will not have to be quarantined (must show proof of vaccine).

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- Alcohol-based sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria and in common areas throughout the campus.
- Thorough hand washing will continue upon return from outdoors, before eating, and following restroom breaks.
- Proper handwashing technique will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.
- Supplies provided by students will not be shared.
- Music and PE equipment will be sanitized after use.

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SCREENING PROTOCOLS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risks of exposure to our employees and students, we will require all staff and students to complete a daily self-screening process.

COVID-19 can cause illness ranging from mild to severe and in some cases can be fatal. Based on what is currently known, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have you recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for you?

- Fever, chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Significant muscle pain or body aches
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms above, stay home and contact your medical provider for further instructions. Also contact the school nurse, campus principal, or superintendent. All screening information will be kept confidential.

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

With the guidance from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Jackson County Hospital District, Ganado ISD has implemented the BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. This allows Ganado ISD to quickly identify and isolate positive individuals before they can transmit the virus to others. It also reduces the amount of absences for individuals waiting on test results and can help fast track treatment and quarantine for positive individuals and their close contacts. Participation in BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing is voluntary.

Testing coordinator and testing administrators were chosen from guidelines provided by TEA. Should the need arise to be rapid tested, please contact: Testing Program Coordinator (Primary) – Mrs. Diane Koop, RN at dkoop@ganadoisd.net or call 361-771-4355

ISOLATION ROOM

There will be a dedicated isolation room in the nurse's clinic. Anyone in the isolation room will be asked to wear a mask and socially distance in order to protect the health and safety of themselves and those who are in the nurse's clinic. The school nurse will complete the COVID form for each student that enters isolation or that presents with fever and/or 3 or more COVID symptoms.

VISITING THE SCHOOL NURSE

Students that need to be assessed during the day due to illness or temperature – the front office shall notify the school nurse of the visitor and the reason to have them assessed. This will allow the nurse

enough time to prepare PPE and meet the student at the door of the clinic to reduce further exposure.

TRANSPORTATION

All surfaces must be cleaned with a disinfectant solution. Bus drivers must not report to work if they suspect they are sick or have symptoms.

- Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- If weather permits (temperature and rain), windows should be open to circulate outside air throughout the bus.
- Buses must be cleaned after each bus trip including all of the high touch surfaces: seats, steering wheel, knobs, door handles and railings.

Parent Transportation

Parents who bring their children to school are asked to remain in their vehicle while dropping off students.

Students who Walk to School

Students who walk to school will use the front entrance of either the elementary or secondary school.

Section II – Academics

ATTENDANCE AND ENROLLMENT

1. The Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 25.092, students must attend school 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade.
2. No remote learning options will be available in 2021-2022. COVID absences will be treated like all other illnesses. The student/parent is responsible for providing a doctor's note to the school and getting all work finished and turned in to teachers as required during absences.

Section III – Extracurricular

ATHLETICS

Protocols will be implemented in the event of a virus outbreak or other widespread health risk as mandated by the Department of Health.

All athletes will follow the schedule provided by the coach of that sport.

- Self-check for COVID symptoms
- Hand sanitation stations are placed throughout workout areas
- Coaches should disinfect weight room equipment regularly
- Avoid sharing water, towels, or gloves

BAND

Protocols will be implemented in the event of a virus outbreak or other widespread health risk as mandated by the Department of Health.

- Avoid sharing water, towels, instruments, and other band equipment
- Self-check for COVID symptoms
- Students are encouraged to socially distance if feasible

CHEERLEADERS

Protocols will be implemented in the event of a virus outbreak or other widespread health risk as mandated by the Department of Health.

- Avoid sharing water, food, drinks, props, towels, and other equipment
- Maintain social distance as much as is feasible
- Cheer sponsors will disinfect the cheer area after use

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