



We understand that there will be many questions from our community about the upcoming school year now that our [GCS Reopening Plan](#) has been released. This document will help answer some of the common questions that are coming up and hopefully serve to provide additional important information to our community. If there are additional questions or concerns that haven't been answered on this page, please don't hesitate to reach out to the district/building offices by phone (607-656-4161) or by email. As always, we appreciate and welcome additional community feedback as it helps us to better serve all of our stakeholders. We look forward to working together throughout the upcoming school year to provide the best possible educational experiences for all of our Greene students while keeping the safety and well-being of all as our top priority.

FAQs – ATTENDING SCHOOL

Question: What is the purpose of cohorts (groupings)? Will siblings be grouped together?

Answer: At the secondary level (grades 7-12), students will be assigned to one of three cohorts: **Gold, Green, Green & Gold**. Additionally, students might be a part of smaller cohorts when they arrive at school. The goal of creating cohorts is to mitigate/limit the potential spread of the COVID virus.

Yes, the district will look to keep family members together.

Question: How will classrooms be set up?

Answer: Classrooms will be set up to maximize the distance between students and staff to allow for proper social distancing. This will be achieved by reducing class sizes, removing items from classrooms to create additional space, and using alternative areas for classrooms. There will be additional safety measures taken within classrooms, such as having all the desks facing in the same direction.

Question: Will students be able to use lockers during this school year?

Answer: No. At the secondary level, students will only be able to use their backpacks to transport school materials.

Question: Is there a chance that all students will come back every day for in-person instruction?

Answer: Our goal is to have all of our students back in our buildings. With that being said, we have to follow New York State guidelines, and we will continue to monitor and update our plans as necessary based on the most current recommendations being provided by the state.

Question: What is the plan for High School Students that BOCES for technical classes in the am or pm?

Answer: The district will transport CTE students to their DCMO programs on the days they are scheduled for in-person learning at Greene High School.

DCMO will have remote learning for our students on the days they are remote with the high school.

Question: Will students go back to full-remote instruction if Greene CSD has a positive COVID case?

Answer: Greene CSD will work directly with Chenango County Department of Health for guidance on school closing based on any case of COVID in the district. The district will remain flexible and follow all health and safety protocols and guidance when it comes to reopening schools or potentially closing our buildings again. We have developed comprehensive plans in the event that we are forced to go fully remote again, which will ensure a continuity of learning is maintained for our students.

Question: What happens if a student at school is showing COVID symptoms?

Answer: If a student is identified as possibly showing COVID symptoms, they will be sent home. The parent or guardian of the student should consult with their child's doctor if they should be tested for COVID. If a family does not have a doctor or the doctor is unavailable, individuals should call the Upstate University Hospital's COVID-19 Triage Line at 315-464-3979. For a list of testing sites in the Central New York area, please check out <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

Question: What are the attendance expectations for students in the different learning scenarios?

Answer: Regardless of the learning scenario (in-person, remote, or hybrid), daily student attendance will be required and recorded by teachers. Our expectations for student engagement will be much higher this fall during remote learning scenarios, as compared to that of the emergency response instruction that was provided this spring.

Question: I did the last survey but now I might change my mind. Who do I talk to about this?

Answer: If you completed the survey and indicated your child would attend in person, or remotely, and things are different now, please call your child's principal right away.

Health & PPE

Question: Some have inquired about the ventilation in buildings and the difference in requirements between malls and schools. Below is the response from Greene’s mechanical engineer:

Answer: The 2020 International Mechanical Code requires a higher occupant density calculation for classrooms than malls, and higher outdoor airflow rates per occupant (cfm/person), and higher outdoor rates in breathing zones (cfm/sq ft) for schools. This provides school classrooms with more outdoor air per space than malls. The classroom air is then exhausted. Malls recirculate a lot of return air, so higher efficiency filters were recommended.

Greene Specific Information

All air filters in the district have been changed and the HVAC units have been serviced and cleaned. The filters in all our buildings are MERV 11. All buildings are above the State filtration criteria. The heating unit dictates the filter capability. The air quality is also monitored with CO2 detectors. This reading will allow us to optimize and adjust air flow, which currently is a turnover rate of approximately every seven to eight minutes. That means that air in each classroom is changed out with fresh outdoor air approximately every seven to eight minutes which is currently double the state requirements of three times per hour

Question: Will Greene CSD provide PPE for students and staff?

Answer: Yes. Greene CSD will provide an appropriate mask for anyone that does not have one. However, staff and students can choose to wear their own face coverings that meet the required guidelines.

Question: Will students be required to wear a mask all day when at school?

Answer: No, when students can be appropriately socially distanced they will be allowed to remove their mask. However, when social distancing cannot be maintained, a face mask must be worn at all times. Additionally, whenever students are moving throughout the building masks will be required.

Question: Will students be required to wear a mask on the bus?

Answer: Yes. All students will be required to wear masks on the bus (unless health issues prevent it).

Question: May students wear just a face shield instead of a mask?

Answer: Masks are the only acceptable barrier per guidance.

Question: My child has a 1-1 Aide. How will mask wearing work?

Answer: Staff Members will wear a mask at all times when not social distancing.

Question: What kind of daily screening process will be used by Greene CSD?

Answer: This answer is twofold ... first, we are asking that parents partner with the district to screen (look for potential sickness symptoms) their students daily before coming to school or getting on a bus. Additionally, parents will be required to fill out a health screener for each of their children on the schools app.

Question: Will the district conduct daily health screenings of students?

Answer: The district will require that parents/students and staff complete a health screening at home, before entering school property (including the school bus). More specific information regarding the platform for this screening will be provided closer to the start of school.

The guidance for screening children will be subject to change based on guidance from health authorities.

Question: My child's doctor said my child might bring home COVID to my elderly parents who live with us. What should I do?

Answer: If you feel your child needs to be remote and you did not complete that in your survey please let your building principal know by August 21st.

Question: Raymond Corporation has confirmed cases of COVID so we know it is in the area. Does this make a difference with the opening of school?

Answer: The Chenango County Health Department will provide the school district with guidance when school buildings, building wings, or classrooms should be shut down.

Question: Is there any way everyone can get a COVID test before school starts?

Answer: No Testing requirements are not determined by the school. If a student has symptoms, contact a doctor immediately.

Question: What if my child doesn't feel well in the morning but isn't running a fever? Should he/she still go to school?

Answer: No. If your child is not feeling well, or running a fever of 100 or more, he/she should not come to school.

Question: What if my child has a fever but is feeling fine? Should I give him/her Tylenol and send her to school?

Answer: No. If your child is running a fever of 100 or more, or showing any other symptoms of COVID, please keep your child home and contact your doctor.

Question: In what case might school have to close?

Answer: Please refer to "Contact Tracing" on the district's Reopening Plan page.

Question: What if someone inside the school tests positive?

Answer: Please refer to "Contact Tracing" on the districts Reopening Plan page.

GENERAL

Question: When will parents get the school supply lists? Do we buy more because of no sharing? Do we buy less because kids are in school part time? Will the list change?

Answer: Please refer to the supply list posted on each building's section of our web page. This list is what is recommended by teachers by grade. Keep in mind that the students will NOT have lockers for now, so they will be carrying their items in their backpacks throughout the day. Our teachers do their best to develop a complete list at the beginning of each year, but sometimes an item may be added as the school year progresses.

Question: I heard the drop off and pick up times are different now. When will we find out the times for each building?

Answer: We are currently finalizing these important details. In an effort to avoid overcrowding at the entrance and exit of school, we are tweaking the schedule slightly. Please keep watch for information on the "Reopening" section on the school's web site for important information.

Question: Will there be the YMCA After School Program?

Answer: Yes

Question: Will there be sports this fall?

Answer: Please refer to our Reopening Plan – [Athletics](#), on the school web page.

Question: Will there be clubs and other after school activities this fall?

Answer: At this time, our focus is on reopening school. As that progresses, we may incorporate activities based on guidance we receive.

Question: When is the first day of school?

Answer: The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 10th. The school calendar is on our web page and will be included in the fall newsletter coming out this month. Specific details regarding your child will be sent to you.

MEALS

Question: Will Greene CSD still be able to provide meals for students that are learning remotely throughout the school year?

Answer: Yes, regardless of the educational scenario (remote, hybrid, or in-person) Greene CSD will be able to provide meals for students through the entirety of the school year.

Question: When students are in school, where will they eat their meals?

Answer: During breakfast or lunch, students will be socially distanced in their classrooms or in the cafeteria (secondary campus).

Question: May my children bring lunch from home?

Answer: Certainly. Children are allowed to bring their lunch. Keep in mind it must be kept in the backpack until lunch time. Students will not be allowed to share food.

Question: Can the school provide free meals for all students?

Answer: We do not know if this is feasible at this time. We encourage all families to complete the Free & Reduced Meal Application that will be part of the fall newsletter coming out later this month. If you would like help filling it out, please contact the office in your child's building and we will assist you.

TRANSPORTATION

Question: Regarding bussing – What if we need to change our child's pick up or drop off spot at the last minute?

Answer: No bus passes will be issued. We are unable to honor bus changes once your schedule is in place. If plans change for your student(s) regarding location of pick up/drop off, parents will be responsible to transport the student or meet him/her at the previously assigned address. Only a specific number of students are allowed per bus, therefore we cannot accommodate last minute additions that may cause us to exceed the allowable number on the bus. We understand this is much different than in past years, but we are restricted by current guidelines.

Accommodations will be made if a permanent change in address happens during the school year.

Question: Can students be picked up at home in the morning and taken to Grandma's at the end of the day?

Answer: Yes. Your student may be picked up at home and dropped off at the sitter if the schedule is the same each day. Inform your student's office of transportation information in advance, and we will form the bus routes to accommodate the number of students on a bus for both the morning or afternoon. Once you have set this up, for morning and afternoon, it will remain in place as we cannot accommodate short term or last-minute bus changes.

Question: I heard the pick-up and drop off times are changing. What are the new times?

Answer: In order to stagger the number of students arriving, the times for pick up or parent drop-off may be changed slightly. All parents will be notified of these times once they are firmly in place.

Question: What if my plans change during the day and I need to pick my child up? Can I do that?

Answer: Yes. Contact the student's office in advance.

Question: Will there be a meeting with parents to go over all the information?

Answer: Yes, meetings will be held soon. The information will be shared on social media and on our web page. Please check our web page often for updated information. We anticipate holding information meetings for parents on August 18th at 12:00 noon, August 19th at 10:00 a.m., and August 19th at 6:00 p.m. A meeting for staff members only will be held on August 20th.
