



Frequently Asked Questions Returning to in Person Instruction

October 16, 2020

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be regularly updated as new information becomes available and as we receive additional questions. Please check back often and do not hesitate to contact your child's school if you have any questions that are not listed here.

Health Management:

(Reference: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/FallGuidanceK-12.pdf>)

1. What are the safety measures being implemented for SJISD classrooms?(Reference pg. 5-6)

- Physical distancing (pg. 5):
 - Desks will be at least six feet apart.
 - Elementary students will begin with a hybrid instructional model to reduce the number of students on the elementary campus with only half the number of students in each classroom. This will provide increased space in common areas of the schools.
 - Due to space constraints, grades 6-12 will continue with a distance learning model and will use a hybrid model of scheduling once conditions allow students to be on campus.
- Hygiene Practices (pg. 6): Students and adults will be instructed to wash hands with soap and water when they arrive at school, clean or sanitize hands before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, after blowing nose or sneezing, and before leaving to go home. They will also be taught and encouraged to not touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the school.
- Face Coverings (pg. 6): All students, staff, volunteers, and guests must wear cloth face coverings or acceptable alternatives at school.

2. Will students and staff need to wear their face covering all day?

In general, anyone on a school campus is expected to wear a face covering. Students riding buses must also wear face coverings. Students may remove face coverings to eat and drink and when they go outdoors for recess, physical education, or other outside activities when they can be physically distanced. If students need a "mask break," staff will take them outside or to a large, well ventilated room where there is sufficient space to ensure more than six feet of physical distance between people.

3. If students aren't wearing masks at recess, can they be less than 6 feet apart?

As children are playing outside at recess, there will be times when they are less than 6 feet apart. According to the SJ County Health Department, this type of incidental contact is almost certainly less than 15 minutes and thus is considered incidental and of no concern. However, at this time SJISD may require the wearing of face masks at recess.

4. What are the guidelines for face coverings? (Reference pg. 7) (Cloth Face Masks)

- All individuals in Washington state must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in any indoor or outdoor public setting.
- *Cloth* face coverings should not be worn by

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- Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
 - Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
 - Those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and those who provide instruction to such people and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
 - Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.
- In *rare circumstances* when a cloth face covering cannot be worn, students and staff may use a clear face covering or a face shield with a drape as an alternative to a cloth face covering. If used, face shields should extend below the chin, to the ears, have no gap at the forehead and have a drape.
 - Younger students must be supervised when wearing a face covering or face shield and may need help putting them on, taking them off, and getting used to wearing them.
 - Even when cloth face coverings are worn, we will continue practicing physical distancing.
 - Students may remove face coverings to eat and drink and when they go outdoors for recess, physical education, or other outside activities when they can be physically distanced. If students need a “mask break,” take them outside or to a large, well ventilated room where there is sufficient space to ensure more than six feet of physical distance between people.
 - As for all assistance provided by staff to students who have special needs, the school is responsible for providing appropriate PPE available.

5. **Who is required to wear a face covering?** ([Washington State Coronavirus Response\(COVID-19\)](#))([Safe Start-Stay Healthy](#) pg. 2)

To comply with the Secretary of Health June 24, 2020 Order SJISD is required to expect all individuals in Washington state to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in any indoor or outdoor public setting. Examples include hotel or apartment hallways, outdoors where many people are gathered such as parks, playgrounds or popular walking paths, and in a restaurant when not seated and eating.

6. **I have a disability and cannot wear a face covering. What can I do?**

If for some reason you are unable to comply with the Governor’s mask order, please contact your child’s school before coming to campus to make accommodations. Individuals without face coverings cannot enter our buildings, however we can provide virtual options, curbside service and other accommodations to ensure these individuals receive the access they need. Individuals without face coverings cannot be around others outdoors on our campuses. Similarly, accommodations can be provided upon prior request.

7. **Will face coverings be provided?**

A face covering will be provided to any student who needs one.

SJISD will provide all staff with at least three district purchased cloth face masks and, if they work in specific cases, face shields and N95 or KN 95 for staff that work closely for long periods of time with students such as nurses and special education teachers. Additionally, there will be disposable masks readily available for staff on the occasion in which they may have a need. Students and staff do have a responsibility to supply their own mask if they would like multiple masks. Since it is currently a requirement for all public places it is a personal responsibility.

8. What if I don't want my child to wear a face covering or cannot support all of the health measures?

Since face coverings and the other health measures listed here are required by the Department of Health, it would be best for you to choose Griffin Bay or homeschool your child if you cannot support these measures. For the safety of the other students and staff, we are unable to allow students who refuse to wear a face covering to remain at school.

9. How will SJISD protect staff and students at higher risk for severe COVID-19 while ensuring access to learning?

SJISD will provide both distance learning and a hybrid program throughout the 2020-2021 school year for students. Teachers that meet the high risk category criteria will have opportunities to teach distance-only as long as there is capacity and need by student groups.

10. How will SJISD transport or facilitate drop-off and pick-up of students? ([Reference pg. 7](#))

To ensure bus loads are lessened, SJISD will be encouraging families to drive their students to and from school each day. The school year will begin with an elementary (K-2) program operating on a hybrid model that will have less than 50% of the student population riding to school each day which will allow social distancing on buses. Additionally, some students will be selecting distance learning only for the 2020-2021 school year reducing ridership by another estimated 20% of regular ridership.

Buses will be sanitized between runs. Schools will also have an school entry and exit plan that will limit student interaction when arriving and departing each campus. Students will have specific entry and exit requirements through open doors to limit social contact, maintain cohort groups, and reduce touched surfaces.

11. Will the school group students? ([Reference pg 4-5](#))

Elementary school students will be with their classmates "only", throughout the school day. They will have recess with their cohort and will have little or no opportunity to mix with other students from other classes during the school day. Students will be around other students on the bus, but they can generally be socially-distanced due to low numbers of students riding.

Once middle and high school students have in person instruction they will be on a hybrid schedule. A hybrid schedule will reduce students on campus by 50% of normal capacity plus the reduction of students that participate in distance learning only. We are currently working on a schedule that promotes interaction and yet maintains a commitment to safety.

Lunch Service will remain the same as is currently available.

12. How will cleaning and disinfection procedures be modified? ([Reference pg. 8](#))

SJISD custodial staff have been trained in cleaning practices that meet infection control guidelines. ([Cleaning for Healthier Schools - Infection Control Handbook](#)) Custodial staff will be using EPA #1677-260 certified cleaner/sanitizer throughout our schools. This sanitizer has a 30 second kill time and is food contact safe. Special attention will be taken with all high contact and touch surfaces. Additionally, each school is now equipped with electrostatic sprayers that allow custodial staff to disinfect hard and non porous surfaces quickly and effectively to ensure student and staff safety. High touch areas will receive regular cleaning throughout each school day, as well as student and staff restrooms.

13. How will SJISD modify ventilation? ([Reference pg. 9](#))

SJISD has set ventilation systems to exchange 100% of the interior school air on average four times per hour. Setpoints on Co2 sensors have been lowered to maximize outside airflow into classrooms and buildings. Additionally, windows will be open as weather permits and doors will be open throughout the school day. Both actions will assist with air exchange and doors will be left open to reduce that touchpoint for our students and staff.

We strongly recommend that students and staff are dressed appropriately for the weather. Because of the increased air exchange our classrooms may be cooler during the colder months of the year. In addition, we plan to get students outside more year-round for breaks. All-weather attire is necessary for this.

What about rooms without windows? The ventilation system set at capacity increases the flow of air in all locations in the buildings. However, if concerns arise, accommodations, if possible, can be made. Please contact your site administrator to discuss the issue.

14. Are staff being tested for COVID-19?

The answer is no at this time. Availability of tests make this difficult.

15. How are schools ensuring monitoring of [symptoms](#) and history of exposure among students and staff?

Part of the state's school reopening requirements is daily health screenings of both staff and students. Verification and tracking is done through an "attestation" of completing the screening. Each day we want to make sure each person coming to school is symptom-free, hasn't had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case and took a temperature reading. Parents will attest to this. We will also check temps on site. The symptoms we'll be asking about include:

- A fever of 100.4°F or higher or a sense of having a fever
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for those with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Runny nose
- Diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Students and staff must also attest that they do not have a household member with symptoms or have been in close contact with anyone suspected to be confirmed to have COVID-19. Students and staff may not use any medication to reduce a fever before coming to school.

Anyone who has not completed the daily attestation will be screened on-site including having their temperature taken. Regular temperature checks will also be done on-site in addition to the daily attestation.

16. Is the school district prepared to manage students and/or staff who get sick onsite? ([Reference pg. 10](#))

If there is a suspected case of COVID-19 on campus, trained health staff will assess the person and make the determination if they need to leave campus.

Every school will have an identified isolation space (away from other staff and students) for ill students in which they will be placed until they are picked up. While in the isolation space they will be required to wear a cloth face covering and provided 6 feet or more of distancing.

17. How will the school district communicate confirmed cases or outbreaks to staff and families? ([Reference pg. 12](#))

The district will have a communication plan in place to inform staff and families of a confirmed case as well as protocol for quarantine requirements.

Additional information: [COVID-19 Exposure](#)

18. Is San Juan County Public Health able to meet the reopening requirements for testing, contact tracing, and monitoring of community spread as specified in the DoH Decision Tree?

The local DoH is able to meet and provide the requirements for contract tracing and monitoring.

19. Is there capacity in your local health department to investigate confirmed COVID-19 cases, quarantine their close contacts and assess whether transmission is occurring in the school?

According to San Juan County Health they are prepared and capable of investigating confirmed COVID 19 cases and assessing whether transmission is occurring in the school.

20. What does it mean to be suspected of having COVID-19?

A suspected case is when an individual displays COVID-like symptoms (such as fever, serious cough with shortness of breath, nausea, etc.) **AND/OR** has had recent contact with an individual known to have COVID-19. However, anyone with COVID-like symptoms (not attributable to a pre-existing non-contagious condition such as asthma), should stay home.

21. What if my child's symptoms are caused by a non-contagious condition?

There are many non-contagious conditions that may cause symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. These include seasonal allergies, asthma, overexertion, migraines, muscle injury, etc. For those with symptoms related to non-contagious conditions, there is no reason for them to not come to school, provided that attendance does not make their conditions worse. For students, make sure the school nurse and teacher is aware of the cause. However, if any of these symptoms are worse than usual, please stay home.

22. When should a student not come to school?

The following conditions are reasons to not to come to school:

- Having COVID-19 or being suspected of having COVID-19 (see returning guidelines below)
- Having or being suspected of having any contagious condition (influenza, strep throat, etc.), this includes having unexplained COVID symptoms.
- Having a fever (100.4 or higher) for any reason: Do not return until the fever is resolved for 24 hours

23. When can a student or staff return to school after having or being suspected of having COVID-19? ([Reference Pg. 11](#))

Students and staff who are of **suspected or confirmed COVID-19** can return to school when:

- At least 24 hours have passed since recovery, which is defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like an uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (unrelated to a non-contagious condition); **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since signs first showed up. **OR**
- It has been at least 24 hours since recovery **AND** a health care provider has certified that the student or staff does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

24. What is defined as close contact as it relates to COVID-19? ([Reference Pg. 11](#))

Close contact means that you have been within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more.

25. What if my child or someone in my family has symptoms and needs to get tested?

Please contact your primary care physician. Do not return to school until test results have come back or it has been 24 hours since the last symptom was evident.

26. I am extremely worried that a student or staff member in San Juan Island schools will get COVID-19 and I am afraid to send my child back to school. What should I do?

There is a small chance that a student or staff member could contract COVID-19 outside of school and test positive. All of the safety measures in place significantly reduce the risk that it would spread at school. **However, the chance is not zero.** If you are extremely worried about this possibility, it would be best to remain in a remote learning environment.

27. Will students maintain the 6 foot distancing at all times?

No, according to DoH, close contact constitutes within 6 feet for a 15 minute or greater duration of time. There will be times when students are within 6 feet of one another, but those will be short in duration and DoH deems this “casual contact” to be generally safe. On the playground, students may not wear masks and may be closer than 6 feet apart for short periods of time. This is also considered to be casual contact. However, students should not be sitting close together or be closely grouped without masks for more than a very brief time.

28. What if I am in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19? ([Reference Pg. 11](#))

If a person believes they have had close contact that is longer than 15 minutes to someone with COVID-19 but they are not sick, they should monitor their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the person sick with COVID-19. They should not go to work, child care, school, or public places for 14 days. If a person develops symptoms of COVID-19 during their quarantine, they should seek testing for COVID-19, and follow guidance above for confirmed COVID-19 cases. Consider COVID-19 testing by Day 10 even if no symptoms are present. However, a negative test after exposure does not shorten the 14 day quarantine period.

29. How will schools handle a COVID-19 outbreak in a classroom? ([Reference Pg. 12](#))

According to DoH, an outbreak is two or more positive student and/or teacher cases in a single classroom or cohort in which the only contact between the two was at school. In this case, the

school will dismiss just that classroom or cohort for home quarantine for 14 days and switch to distance learning. Once the quarantine is concluded the students will return.

30. What if more than one classroom have a COVID-19 outbreak? ([Reference Pg. 12](#))

If greater than or equal to 10% of the school's classrooms are dismissed due to outbreaks, the entire school will close and switch to distance learning for a 14 day quarantine period. According to DoH, an outbreak is two or more positive cases in a single classroom or cohort in which the only contact between the two students was at school.

31. What should you do if you are [high-risk](#)? ([Reference Pg. 3](#))

SJISD intends to offer a choice for distance learning for both students and staff. Those at high risk for health problems from COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider when considering whether to provide or participate in K-12 activities. Families should carefully consider risks and benefits of sending their student to in person school.

32. Where can I find information about the current COVID-19 risks in San JuanCounty?

The [COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard](#) provides updated information about COVID-19 in our state and county. Click on our county to view current data. Additional information is also available on the San Juan County Public Health site.

Learning Programs and Resources

33. How is SJISD deciding when to move to different learning models?

[According to specific school reopening guidance and metrics released by DoH](#), San Juan County is considered "low risk". Additionally current community conditions including the fact that we have not had a case in San Juan County since August 9 allow us to consider a slow reopening. The commitment to wear face masks and follow health department recommendations has made significant impacts on the control of COVID 19 spread on San Juan Island. We must continue to be diligent in order for school to reopen.

- **GRADES K-2 START IN HYBRID ROTATION:** Per DoH guidance and our plan, grades k-2 will be on a Hybrid Rotation with four days a week of in-person instruction. The model that will be used is an am/pm one. Students in each grade level will be separated into two groups. Group A will attend in the morning. Group B will attend in the afternoon. When students are at home, they will be provided work to extend their learning. Additionally, specials such as PE, art, science, and music will continue to be done remotely through zoom and will be conducted when students are at home.
- **GRADES 3-5 WILL REMAIN IN TELESCHOOLING:** Grades 3-5 will continue with teleschooling for the time being. We will monitor the success of the K-2 and start the next phase when appropriate.
- **GRADES 6-12 WILL REMAIN IN TELESCHOOLING:** DoH guidance does not recommend we start with a Hybrid Rotation for secondary and instead suggests we transition to it over time. We can gradually move grade levels to a Hybrid Rotation (see below) if community conditions remain roughly the same or improve and reach specific targets.

34. What metrics will San Juan Island Public Schools use to determine when it will move to a new Phase?

Following guidance from DoH, the district is using the two-week average positive COVID-19 cases per 100k in San Juan County along with data on any outbreaks in the schools. The local health department tracks regional trends and their recommendation will also help us guide the decision to reopen.

35. What is the “default” or main educational model?

The main or default educational model for K-2 when we open is Hybrid Rotation and for 3-12 it is teleschooling. Unless requested otherwise, this is where students will be placed.

36. How will special education students be supported in the various models?

In each model, IEP case managers will work with families to design a program that meets the needs of students receiving special education services. A blend of in-person and distance learning programs can be used. On-site services can be provided for students on distance learning days if necessary. Please contact your child’s school if you have questions about which model might best suit your child. After learning model selections are made, case managers will work with families to build their educational plans.

37. Will my child receive their own Chromebook? What happens if it is lost or damaged?

Yes. Students in all models will receive a district-issued Chromebook to use at school and home. Students will receive training on how to use them and access school resources. The District has developed the Chromebook Damage/Loss Program as a way for families to reduce the financial risk if a Chromebook is accidentally damaged, stolen, vandalized, or lost. Participation in this program is completely voluntary.

38. What if we don’t have internet access?

Upon request, we will help families needing internet access through our local providers or wireless hotspots. We have several free options for families that qualify. Please contact us if you need assistance.

39. What school supplies do I need to buy for my child?

Please Note: Not all supplies are given to all levels or programs. Students will receive the supplies they need. The specific supplies offered to our families depend on the courses, instructional model, program, and level of the classes in which each student is enrolled. Likewise, additional supplies not listed will be provided as necessary for specific courses.

40. Will students be able to get school lunch on distance learning days?

Yes. Through December 31, 2020, all students are eligible for free lunch whether attending in person or via a distance model. Meals will be available for pickup at designated sites. Students do not need to be present. However, it is still important that families apply for free or reduced lunch. This information is used to provide fee waivers and help qualify the district for vital federal and state funds to serve students.

41. What are the attendance requirements for our students?

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- Absence from in-person learning is when a student is not physically present on school grounds and in class during a scheduled in-person learning day.
- Absence from teleschooling is when a student is not participating in planned instructional activities on a scheduled learning day.
 - A student must attend the daily zoom sessions in order to be considered present.
 - Students may also show evidence of attendance through participation in a task or assignment.
- Absence from remote learning, Griffin Bay, is when a student or family fails to have a weekly interaction with the certified teacher.
- Attendance must be taken for all enrolled students participating in remote learning, teleschooling, and in-person learning. If a student is scheduled for multiple classes on a given day attendance must be taken for each class.
- Excused absences from remote or in-person learning are outlined in BP 3122 and absences related to:
 - the student's illness, health condition, or medical appointments due to COVID-19;
 - caring for a family member who has an illness, health condition, or medical appointment due to COVID-19;
 - the student's employment or other family obligations during regularly scheduled school hours that are temporarily necessary due to COVID-19 until other arrangements can be made, including placement in a more flexible education program;
 - the student's parent or guardian's work schedule or other obligations during regularly scheduled school hours, until other arrangements can be made;
 - the student's lack of necessary instructional tools, including internet broadband access or connectivity;
 - Other COVID-19 related circumstances as determined between school and parent/guardian or emancipated youth.

42. Can I homeschool my child?

Yes. You can submit a Declaration of Intent to Homeschool to the district office to homeschool your child. You can also enroll in Griffin Bay to access materials, resources, and supplemental classes to support your child.

43. Can high school students mix and match courses from the various options available?

Yes. Depending on need and course availability, high school students can mix and match courses from Friday Harbor High School, Griffin Bay, and Running Start (grades 11-12). High school students in Griffin Bay can also access these options. Please contact your child's high school counselor for more information. This may not work for all students.

44. What is the Hybrid Rotation model?

With half the number of students at school, the Hybrid Rotation model creates much smaller class sizes. Students in a class will split into two groups, A and B. Group A would do in-person learning on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and Friday in the AM from 8:30 - 10:45 while Group B is participating in extended learning from home including zooms from specialist instructors. On the same days but in the PM from 12:30 - 2:45, Group A will be at home while Group B will participate in on-site and in-person learning. All Hybrid students will do extended learning on Wednesdays. Student attendance (participation) on Wednesday is required.

On Wednesdays, additional on-site intervention groups, special education, and other in-person services for some students, especially those with an IEP, may occur. Wednesday will also allow teachers one day to keep their online resources updated, communicate with parents and students, provide individual or small group support as needed, and complete ongoing training in distance learning and technology integration. While classrooms and high touch areas will be

sanitized on at least a daily basis, custodial staff will use Wednesday's time to complete the deep cleaning of the building in all areas.

45. What do we mean by extended learning?

Teleschooling improved from last spring. This is a credit to all teachers. This instructional model requires daily attendance, a set schedule, synchronous learning (online with the teacher, like zoom), and asynchronous learning (online at different times than the teacher). Students were taught how to use Google Classroom for access to resources and to turn in assignments. Lessons, assignments, and activities have been posted there for students.

Extended learning means asynchronous learning will continue. Additionally, specialists will schedule times for zoom synchronous sessions during.

Using district curriculum and tools such as Google Classroom and Zoom we can smoothly transition to (and if necessary from) the Hybrid Rotation model as dictated by community health conditions.

To more effectively engage with students and families, we will do the following:

- Increase consistency (class schedule, meetings, and feedback)
- Require daily attendance
- Have a more robust remote (online) learning model
- Increase school-to-home connections (counselors and staff will provide social-emotional support to students and their families)
- Provide some in-person instruction to students with unique, critical-learning requirements such as our youngest students, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

46. What is Griffin Bay School?

The Griffin Bay School serves students in grades 1-12. GBS is a full-featured replacement for in-person instruction using a well-established and successful online learning environment. It does not align with our district curriculum but does meet all state and federal standards. GBS is for families who *do not* intend to transition back to a hybrid or in-person model and prefer to stick with the school for at least a full semester. A permanent program in the San Juan Island School District, families who select GBS may continue in this program in subsequent school years as they wish.

This is a flexible online-only model with all asynchronous learning (online at different times than the teacher), a schedule you set as a family, and requiring additional parent support to be effective. Daily attendance is not taken, but student progress is monitored monthly, and weekly contact with a teacher via email, phone, or video is required. Parent support and involvement is key to student success in this program, especially for younger students.

For grades 1-6, this program provides students all of their instruction. The GBS program aligns with Washington State Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) rules. These ALE rules govern how students must perform in online courses. Students are required to show progress to remain in good standing. If a student fails to demonstrate progress or communicate for 20 days, a drop from the class or course will occur.

More Information and a FAQ about GBS can be found on the website.