

Reopening UGES

*Returning to school during a pandemic is not without risk. While we can not assure that COVID-19 will not enter our building, we can assure you that we are committed to helping decrease the risk to our students and staff. We do need your due diligence in helping maintain this as well. Please conduct daily, routine morning screenings for your student to insure a healthy start to the school day including taking their temperature daily. COVID-19 symptoms include the following: cough, fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches and headaches, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, chills, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If your child is experiencing any of the mentioned please **DO NOT** send them to school. Students should be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to school, unless you are awaiting a COVID test result, have been in “close contact” with someone that is COVID positive or the student has a positive test result (if so, refer to your physician and local health department for further guidance). If your child experiences any of the following while at school, they will be isolated in the designated area near the existing health room with the school nurse or health aide until a parent or guardian is able to pick the child up.*

Our plan was developed and decisions were made based on several resources:

- *Surveys*
- *Staff communication via zoom and emails*
- *Central Racine County Health Department*
- *Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention*
- *Department of Public Instruction and Health Services Recommendations*
- *American Association of Pediatrics*

UGES families:

- *We hold the safety, health, and wellness of our students and staff and our greater community as our highest priority.*
- *We will continue to provide a high quality education for all students.*
- *We will remain committed to the social and emotional well being of all students and staff.*
- *We will make decisions based on the most recent guidelines available from local, state and federal health officials.*
- *We will be understanding of the needs of our students, staff, families, and community.*

- *We will adjust our educational plan as the pandemic evolves.*

Instructional Programming

- *In-person learning 4K-8th grade will be 5 days a week where face coverings will be required along with additional safety precautions in place. The school will have limited supplies for anyone in need of a face covering. We realize that some children may have a health condition that will not allow them to wear a face mask but I strongly recommend that you attempt to find a face covering that will work in place of a face mask. If your child has a health condition that will not allow him/her to wear a face covering, documentation from a doctor will be required indicating such. On another note it would be greatly appreciated if you could start talking with your child about face coverings and practice wearing a face cover prior to starting school on September 1st. We will make every effort in a variety of ways to allow for removal of face coverings during the school day when social distancing is possible.*
- *Virtual Learning- This plan allows a student to learn from home and no face covering will be needed. Union Grove Elementary will be partnering with JEDI Virtual School to provide students with their education. The virtual program will only be available to students on a per semester basis. You will need to contact us no later than August 5, 2020 to participate in virtual learning. If you decide to sign up for the virtual program, you are committed for a semester. UGES currently runs trimesters so some adjustments will be made when returning to face to face learning at UGES. For more information please go to <https://jedivirtual.org/> Any open enrolled student attending UGES that's interested in this option will be receiving a letter by August 7 on what they will need to do differently than a UGES resident student.*

Disinfecting, sanitizing and cleaning our facility

- *To open and stay open, the building and grounds team has been working diligently since the onset of the pandemic and throughout the summer months in planning for our return in September. When planning for our return we focused on three areas which involved disinfecting, sanitizing and cleaning.*

- *The building and grounds department has updated their practices for this upcoming year to put disinfecting as an even higher priority. All areas of our school will be disinfected and cleaned daily.*
- *During the course of the school day, our custodial staff will be focused on disinfecting high touch areas throughout the building. All classrooms will be equipped with disinfectant that can be applied throughout the day when students are not present. Teachers will be trained in the proper use of this disinfectant.*
- *Hand sanitizing stations will be provided throughout the building. Students are expected to use the stations and/or bathrooms to wash their hands throughout the day. Students will be taught these new protocols and expectations during the first days of school.*

Face Covering

- *Face coverings will be required at all times when social distancing is not possible. Social distancing is defined as a minimum of six feet of space between individuals. In order to provide social distancing opportunities, the staff will be structuring their lessons, utilizing outdoor spaces, and providing flexible seating options within their classrooms. During these times of social distancing the students will be allowed to lower their face coverings.*
- *To assist with the transition of removing and reapplying face coverings, students will all receive a school issued lanyard.*

Teaching Formats

- **Early Childhood, 4K, KG, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grades** will be teaching in a cohort style. Each homeroom will be remaining in their classroom and have their core subjects taught by their individual homeroom teacher. Special education teachers will still be team teaching in a classroom and pulling out students they are supporting from other classrooms. The specials schedule including library, computers, PE, art, and music will remain the same.
- **4th, 5th, & 6th grades** will be team teaching in houses. Students will remain in their homeroom while the two teachers will rotate from one classroom to the other. Special education teachers will still be team teaching in a classroom and pulling out students they are supporting from other classrooms.

- **The 7th & 8th grade** students will remain with the same group of students, but will be following a “typical” 7th & 8th grade schedule. Transitions between classes will need to include face coverings, no talking, and a teacher leading them to their next class.

Bathroom and locker usage

- Staff will be developing a plan for both bathroom and locker usage during the day.

Transitions throughout the Building

- UGES is working diligently to minimize transitions at each grade level. To accomplish this, teachers will switch classrooms when possible rather than the students. When students are transitioning to different classes, they will travel with their homeroom cohort.
- During transitions, students will be wearing their face coverings, quiet in the hallways, and escorted by their teacher. We are working to ensure the students' experience is as safe and normal as possible. This will include providing students with the opportunity to attend specials such as; music, physical education, art, computers, and library. Recess will be provided throughout the day. Each of these learning experiences will come with additional cleaning protocols.

Entering/Exiting the Building

- Students will enter and exit the building at their typical grade level door. Building doors will be open to students beginning at 7:15 a.m. Prior to entering and exiting the building students are required to put on their face covering.
- To minimize the number of students congregating at each door, staff will usher students into the building upon arrival. The end of the day dismissal times will be staggered slightly by grade level to reduce congestion in our hallways.

Lunch/Breakfast

- *Breakfast will be open beginning at 7:05 am in the K-4 cafeteria. Students will go directly to a designated spot upon arrival and will remain seated until they're directed to get their breakfast. After they get their breakfast they will return to their designated seat that will be 6 feet apart for social distancing.*
- *All lunches have been adjusted to accommodate social distancing. This may mean that lunch times have changed and/or the lunch room utilized by a grade level may have changed. We have two lunchrooms at UGES. In the past we had designated them as the K-4 lunchroom or the 5-8 lunchroom. Both lunchrooms will be used by all grade levels. Students will be able to enjoy lunch with their class with social distancing of 6 feet.*
- *Staff making and serving the food will be wearing face coverings, gloves and plexiglass will be installed. We will also be adjusting what we use to serve and eat lunch with.*

School Supplies

- *Individual student supplies will be labeled and used specifically by that student. The use of "communal" materials will be limited to the best of our ability and disinfected after use. Examples of this will be students taking their own art supplies to art class.*

Busing

- *Any student riding the bus will be expected to wear a face covering from the time they board the bus, to their exit. At the end of the day all bus students will be dismissed to board their busses prior to the 2:45 bell. The early dismissal is to help prevent congregations of students at the end of the day.*
- *The bus company will be implementing additional sanitation procedures.*

Special Education

- *All students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) will continue to receive high quality special education services tailored to students' disability related needs.*
- *Students' special education teachers and other service providers will work in close collaboration with parents and guardians to insure that any continuing or*

new academic, social, emotional, or health/safety needs are addressed through the IEP.

Social and Emotional Supports

Addressing the social and emotional needs of all UGES students upon our return to school will be critical to re-engaging students in learning and reconnecting them with each other and their teachers. We have several staff members available to address any concerns that may arise.

Office and Health Room Management

We have made significant changes in our procedures that will be used in the health room and office areas during the pandemic.

In the Event of a Positive COVID19 Case

If a student or staff member is tested positive for COVID19, the Racine Health Department will investigate the circumstances of the student/staff contact with others and determine their quarantine requirements. A Skylert will be sent out to parents/guardians of all UGES students if a positive case is reported to the district.

Temporary Virtual Learning

Each grade level is beginning their grade level instruction utilizing a device (iPad/Chromebook) to access their class work. Grades 4K - 2nd grade will be utilizing Seesaw while 3rd through 8th grades will be using Google Classroom. Seesaw and Google Classroom are platforms where most of the students' assignments will be accessed and submitted in the event of an individual, class or school quarantine. Staff will be developing brief recorded tutorials that will help both students and parents.

This fluid plan will continue to have changes made when needed. Please check back regularly at our website at uges.k12.wi.us for information throughout this pandemic. We will be adjusting our plan along with sharing information that we receive that will give you valuable information.

Thank you again for your support and understanding during this very difficult time.