



September 4, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Reopening of School

The GEO Administration has worked closely with numerous governmental entities in order to stay abreast of the everchanging guidelines and recommendations from the governor, Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Department of Education and CDC to determine how we will safely transition some scholars to face to face learning. We have reviewed parish COVID-19 health data - case rates over successive 10-14 day trends -and have decided to reopen our school doors for scholars to return to face to face learning. The CDC guidelines are being used by all GEO Schools to develop clear, actionable steps that will be taken before students and staff will return to our schools.

While we will continue to offer virtual instruction, GEO Prep scholars in grades K-5, who would like to participate in face to face learning, will be able to return to school on Monday, September 14th based on the following plan:

- Scholars will be staggered on Monday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 15th. Following is the schedule for our staggered re-entry plan:
 - Scholars in grades K, 3rd, and 5th will report on Monday, September 14th.*
 - Scholars in grades 1st, 2nd, 4th will report on Tuesday, September 15th.*
- School buildings will undergo deep cleaning every **Friday**. All students will learn virtually on Friday's. Teachers will still be taking their rolls for attendance.
- All scholars in grades K-5, who will be participating in face to face learning will report on Wednesday, September 16th.
- We will only be offering extended morning for the ones who need it. Extended day will begin on September 28th.

Scholars in grades 6-8 and high school students, who would like to participate in face to face learning, will be able to return to school on Monday, September 21st based on the following plan.

- Scholars will be staggered on Monday, September 21st and Tuesday, September 22nd. Following is the schedule for our staggered re-entry plan:
Scholars in grades 7th and 9th will report on Monday, September 21st.
Scholars in grades 6th, 8th, and 10th will report on September 22nd.
- School buildings will undergo deep cleaning every **Friday**. All students will learn virtually on Friday's. Teachers will still be taking their rolls for attendance.
- All middle and high school scholars, who will be participating in face to face learning will report on Wednesday, September 23th.

Should a sustained spike or increase in cases occur, the GEO Administration will consult with the Health Advisory Committee to determine if any adjustments need to be made back to a virtual learning environment. The transition to and future continuation of in-person learning will also be contingent upon a variety of factors that may include the following: the number of cases; local hospital capacity; availability of PPE and cleaning supplies; safety materials; and adequate staffing for school and transportation functions.

Thank you once again for all your support through this most unprecedented and challenging time. I know some of you have been anxiously awaiting our reopening. Although impressive instruction is taking place online, I am excited to have some scholars come back into the building. I applaud our students, parents, teachers and administrators for making the best of our current situation.

Bus Operations

In order to reduce the number of students on the bus, parents are encouraged to drive their children to school when possible. State guidelines are 50% of a manufacturer's capacity. Full bus capacity is 72 students, so buses will run with no more than 36 students in Phase Two. Bus operators and students will be required to wear a face covering while on the bus if required by the most recent Governor's Proclamation and BESE guidance. Every student utilizing school bus transportation will be required to sanitize their hands using hand sanitizer. School buses will be required to travel with the windows open to facilitate air flow as permitted by weather. Each school bus operator will be required to sanitize the school bus after each individual route.

Maximum Group Size

State guidelines (Phase II) mandate that there are no more than 25 people including a teacher/staff member in a classroom while maintaining spacing to the greatest extent possible. AT GEO, the plan is to have classes with no more than 12 scholars. Groups will stay static as much as possible. Classrooms will be cleaned between transitions.

Temperature Checks

Temperature checks will be conducted daily when our scholars arrive at school. Any student with a temperature shall be held in a different location and you will be contacted to come immediately to pick the child up. Please do not send your child to school if your child has a temperature 100.4.

Hand Washing

Students will be given multiple opportunities to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer throughout the day.

Face Coverings

Face coverings must be worn by **all adults** and **all students** to the greatest extent possible. Individuals with severe breathing difficulties should not wear face coverings however, a face shield will be provided. Face coverings must be school appropriate.

Child Nutrition

All students on campus will be offered breakfast upon entering the school campus. Students will eat in their classroom. In all circumstances, students will maintain social distancing to the maximum extent possible.

For GEO Prep Scholars participating in virtual learning, lunch, and possibly snack meals will be offered as “grab-n-go” meals, available for drive-by pick-up on Thursdays. We are also working on a delivery service to our virtual families.