October 7, 2020

Dear Garfield-Palouse MS School Families:

We are excited to have our kids back in the building for the first day of school on Wednesday, October 14. As we get ready to start the school year, we want to remind you of some very important details concerning bringing the students back and what you and they can expect moving forward. We will constantly be making adjustments as the situation dictates and I want to thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding in this most unusual start to the year. We want our kids back in school and want to provide a meaningful educational experience for all of our families.

With that being said, there are a few important details that must be followed for Middle School students to be back in the building on Wednesday, October 14: **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK OR EXHIBITING ANY SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF BEING SICK.**

1. **The doors to the school will not be opened until 7:45 AM.**
2. **PARENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING.** Students who are dropped off at the Main Entrance will be screened on arrival and go directly to their classrooms. Garfield students riding the bus will be screened at the bus loop entrance and will go directly to their classroom. Palouse students riding the bus will be screened at the Science room entrance and will go directly to their classroom. All students will also be screened by their classroom teacher again during their 1st period class.
3. Students who show signs or symptoms or have a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be isolated and the family will be called.
4. **Cloth face covering/Masks are required and will be worn in the building at all times.** Families are responsible for providing a proper cloth face covering/mask for their student(s).
5. Students will be in cohorts, (kept together) as much as possible to prevent movement among groups.
6. Breakfast will be eaten in classrooms upon arrival
7. Lunch will be eaten outside, in lunchroom, or designated area. We will have a split lunch period. 6th graders will have first lunch and 7/8th graders will have 2nd lunch.
8. Attached to this letter is a Signs and Symptom flow chart we will be using at school. If your child exhibits any of these signs/symptoms at school the chart explains what you can expect.
9. We will continue to provide a distance learning option for families who choose not to send their student(s) to school for in-person instruction.

Again, we are excited to welcome our Middle School students and families back to school for the 2020/2021 school year. Please continue to visit our website (www.garpal.net) to find additional information on our reopening. If you have any questions please contact the Garfield School at 509-635-1331.

Zane Wells: Garfield Superintendent/Principal
**Student sick/exclusion/return algorithm:** student develops NEW symptom NOT attributable to another cause/condition or identified as close contact

**High-risk symptom:** cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, unexplained loss of, or decrease in, sense of smell or taste

**Low-risk symptom:** fever, or temperature ≥100.4F, sore throat, muscle aches/pains, fatigue, headache, nasal congestion/runny nose, gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea/vomiting/abdominal pain/diarrhea

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- 1 low risk symptom  
  - No close contact to COVID-19 case

- ≥2 low risk symptoms OR  
  - one high risk symptom  
  - No close contact to COVID-19 case

- Positive close contact to COVID-19 case  
  - +/- symptoms

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**Evaluation by medical provider?**

- Positive Swab  
  - Return 10 days after symptoms develop AND >24 hours fever free AND symptoms improving  
  - *Negative test not required*

- Negative Swab or no swab?  
  - Return 10 days after symptoms develop AND >24 hours fever free AND symptoms improving  
  - *Negative test not required for return*

- Out of school for minimum 10-14 days

- Symptoms develop?  
  - Return sooner than 10 days only with medical provider statement  
  - Alternative diagnosis identified and negative swab preferred  
  - *Repeat test not required for return*

- No symptoms

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**Return to school when:**  
- >24 hours fever-free  
- no new symptoms develop or symptom determined to be due to other cause/condition  
- Negative test not required

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Other possible scenarios:
- Student tests positive for COVID-19, for any reason not falling under algorithm above exclude from school 10 days with return per the algorithm
- Nursing/designated staff may consider general complaints on a case-by-case basis (abdominal pain, fatigue, headache with no other symptoms).
- Nursing/designated staff may consider chronic or recurring medical conditions that present with symptoms above on a case-by-case basis

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Staff name___________________________ Initials______ Student Name_____________________________ Date__________________