

GCA Families,

We have had several inquiries regarding our COVID protocol as we begin the new school year. First, I want to thank you for your patience as we adjust our practices based on the evolving conditions in our city. Second, I want you to know that we are strongly committed to actions that place a significant focus on the health and welfare of GCA faculty, staff, students, and families.

Over the last several weeks, we have been monitoring local COVID protocols within our community. We researched and consulted with health officials, school and board administration, and local public and private schools in our area. After many hours of discussion, we decided that Grace Christian Academy will implement the following course of action.

- Grace Christian Academy strongly recommends students and staff wear face coverings indoors, but masks will not be required at this time. However, parents who choose to have their child wear a mask may contact the school office. The administration will notify the respective teachers, and we will make every effort to help enforce the parental decision.
- We are limiting visitors in the building to those with designated appointments for the foreseeable future. Parents may walk their children to the door but will not be allowed inside.
- We will practice social distancing as much as possible in the classroom, cafeteria, and large gatherings

In addition, Grace Christian Academy will continue many of the instructional, operational, and health practices from the 2020-2021 school year.

- Teachers /Classrooms will have access to school-provided hand sanitizer, alcohol wipes, and cleaning supplies.
- Handwashing will continue to be a priority. Students, teachers, and staff will dedicate intentional time for handwashing throughout the school day.
- Throughout the school day, GCA custodial staff will perform frequent cleaning of high-touch areas, including restrooms and cafeterias.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be present on campus, in buildings, and classrooms.
- The GCA campus will be cleaned nightly.
- In the event of an active COVID-19 positive case, GCA will conduct a deep cleaning of the affected area(s) per CDC guidelines.
- Face coverings will be available for use.

If an individual test positive for COVID -19, the individual (student/staff) should follow the advice of their healthcare professional in conjunction with CDC guidelines before returning to school/work. The person should be fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and significant improvement in symptoms.

- Current CDC guidelines for those with positive COVID-19 cases is to remain away from others until the following criteria have been met:
 - Ten days since symptoms first appeared and
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Other symptoms of COVID are improving

Individuals who have been in close and personal contact with a person who has tested positive for Covid-19 should monitor their health conditions for symptoms of COVID-19, follow recommended CDC guidelines for close contact, and take appropriate steps should symptoms arise. ♦

- Current CDC guidance for confirmed close contact persons is to quarantine from others. This quarantine can conclude:
 - After ten days without testing
 - After seven days after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day five or later)
 - People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

Upon confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, parents of students within self-contained classrooms will be contacted via phone if there is a confirmed positive COVID-19 case. In addition, confirmed cases within co-curricular activities will be communicated with families of individual team members.

The safety of your child is our number one concern and is always in the forefront of our decisions. We will continue to monitor local health condition and seek guidance from various sources regarding our policies as we move through this school year.