



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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November 19, 2020

Dear Scottsdale Prep Families,

Today's message will provide you with some important details regarding our upcoming school closure, which was announced in Erik Twist's [email](#) to you Wednesday. As Governor Ducey explained in his press conference yesterday, "Arizona and our nation remain in a public health emergency and getting back to normal isn't in the cards right now." Here at Great Hearts, it means that we want to proactively limit any potential spread on our campuses, so as to prioritize in-person learning for as many students that would like it. We understand that this situation may come as an inconvenience to your family, but we appreciate your support in order to ensure that we can all return to in-person learning for the remainder of the first semester.

Scottsdale Prep had already elected to make Wednesday, November 25th a Distance Learning day for all students. In addition, all Great Hearts academies, including Scottsdale Prep, will be closed from Monday, November 30, 2020 to Wednesday, December 2, 2020. In-person learning will resume on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

This means that all in-person students will be in distance learning, and all school activities including athletics and clubs, will be postponed for three days from Monday, November 30 – Wednesday, December 2.

On Monday, I will share the full distance learning program via email, but generally, our distance learning program for these four days will be the following:

- Wednesday, November 25 (Half Day): Asynchronous Learning Via Google Classroom
- Monday, November 30 – Wednesday, December 2: Fully Synchronous Days
 - Via Zoom and Use of Google Classrooms

Our teachers are ready to support students online on the three days after Thanksgiving Break with fully synchronous instruction, using our [regular bell schedule](#) as the basic format for all Zoom sessions daily. All students should still have their devices from the previous distribution, and we will work to ensure that all of our students can access distance learning in the safest way possible.

If you do not have care for your child(ren) on the days that the school is closed, we will have an on-campus support option for them during the regular school hours. Please follow [this link](#) to reserve a spot for the days you will need supervision. **We ask that you submit all requests no later than Tuesday, November 24th at 3 pm.** Please understand that we cannot guarantee a totally risk-free environment, but the on-site care will follow the same COVID-19 mitigation protocols we use during the school day.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this causes you, but we are working to be as proactive around the health and safety of our community as possible. We believe that this measure, as well as all the other protocols and procedures that we have in place will help to keep our communities open for in-person learning for the rest of the semester.

As a reminder, on Thursday, December 3, please **DO NOT** send your student back to school if:

1. Anyone they have been in contact with has tested positive for COVID-19.
2. They have been tested for COVID-19 and are waiting for test results.
3. Someone in their household has been tested for COVID-19 and is waiting for test results.
4. They have any symptoms of COVID-19, which include include fever ($>100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$), cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, sore throat, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose or congestion, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or a new loss of taste or smell.
5. They have traveled internationally by air, and do not have a negative COVID-19 test five days after their return.

And, if your student has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, they should continue to quarantine in their homes, staying away from the public until their 14 days are completed.

I have included a list of FAQs on the next pages for your review. We appreciate your cooperation and partnership as we work to keep our school as healthy and safe as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Travis Clement, Director of Operations [via email](#).

Sincerely,



Alison Chaney, Headmaster

FAQ's

What should I do if I find out that someone we were around over the holidays has tested positive for COVID-19?

You and your family should get tested. Even if your results are negative, you should still stay home for 14 days from the time you were last in contact with the person who tested positive. Anytime during those 14 days you could still have a positive result. Watch for symptoms – fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, body aches, diarrhea. Stay away from vulnerable people.

If my child is a close contact of someone who tested positive, but my child's test results are negative, why does my child need to remain out of school for the full 14 days?

The virus can incubate in the body for 1-14 days before it starts to shed. A person will not test positive until that shedding starts. So, they may be negative on day 3, but positive on day 13.

What should we do if we travelled internationally over the break?

Our policy requires you to quarantine for 14 days from the day that you return to the United States or to get a negative test result 5 days after you return.

Do I have to quarantine if I travel domestically?

Our policy does not require you to quarantine if you travel domestically, but the CDC and several states recommend that you stay home for 14 days after travelling. If you choose to stay home after travelling, your school will provide your student with learning materials and not mark your child unexcused **as long as** you are back in Arizona for those 14 days.

If my student gets tested, can they return to school?

Students should always stay home while waiting for their test results. It is also a good idea to stay home while someone in the household is waiting test results just in case. There is only one situation that will allow a student to return to school and that is only if they were not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days and their test is negative.

How is it determined that my child is a close contact?

The Maricopa County Department of Health defines a “close contact” as someone who has been within 6 feet of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for an accumulated time of 15 min or more over a period of 24 hours. This is with or without a mask, indoors or outdoors.

What does quarantine mean?

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. They should not participate in any group activities such as school, sports, meetings, or social gatherings, as well as attend events with others.

Do I need to keep my other children home?

No, if... No one in your household has tested positive for COVID-19. When you have one child who is considered a close contact, your other child(ren) and family members at home would be considered a “close contact of a close contact” and they do not have to quarantine. They are allowed to come to school. They personally have not been exposed to someone with COVID. If your quarantined child should start to exhibit symptoms then s/he should be tested and if positive, other family members would also then need to quarantine. Additionally, if your quarantined child develops symptoms, keep all other siblings home pending the results of the COVID-19 test.

Yes, if... It is a member of your household who has tested positive for COVID-19. All other family members would be considered close contacts and would need to quarantine for a full 14-day period and longer if they are unable to isolate from one another. See CDC guidelines [here](#).

Am I at risk?

People who are most at risk are those who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes) with someone who has the infection. According to CDC, risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age and even more so for those who are immune-suppressed or have underlying health conditions such as heart, kidney or lung disease, obesity, or diabetes.

What do I do next? Can I get tested for COVID-19?

People who have been exposed to COVID-19 are at risk of becoming ill for up to 14 days after the exposure. If you haven’t developed symptoms by that time, you are unlikely to develop symptoms from this exposure. Should you wish for you or your child to be tested, you can access a list of testing sites [here](#).