



Grace Christian Academy Covid-19 Mitigation and Campus Readiness Plan Fall 2021

Premise of GCA Covid-19 Mitigation and Campus Readiness Plan

- GCA will adhere to the core principle of focusing on the health and well-being of faculty, staff, students, vendors, volunteers, and visitors within facilitation of the Campus Readiness Plan.
- Planning and development of the Campus Readiness Plan has included key stakeholders: school board members, administration, faculty, and staff.
- The Campus Readiness Plan and the ongoing decisions around it will respond and align to developing federal, state, and local government *mandates* placed upon GCA. Separately, the school will independently evaluate *recommendations* and determine if they are applicable to Grace Christian Academy.
- GCA is dedicated to keeping in person education possible. Please be flexible as we navigate the changing guidelines and the possibilities of modifications to the mitigation strategies.

Objectives: The purpose of the Fall 2021 Campus Readiness Plan is to clearly communicate expectations to all Grace Christian Academy stakeholders. One facet of these expectations is for our families to understand what the school expects of our families as we work together to maintain a safe environment on campus and defuse the fear and anxiety that exists around issues pertaining to Covid-19. The other facet of expectations is establishing an understanding of what our families can expect from the school.

Logistics and Planning

Entrance protocols - The GCA campus opens at 8:10 am and students are **expected to go directly to their classrooms**. The expectation is that students and staff who are presenting symptoms associated with sickness will not be present on campus.

Evaluation of students for symptoms - If the classroom staff suspects that a student is displaying symptoms of any type of illness they will send the student immediately to the health office where the school nurse will evaluate the student. Conversely, school staff will recognize that if they are personally displaying any symptoms of illness, they will not report to work. **Students and staff who have displayed potential symptoms should remain at home until they have been free of symptoms for 24 hours without the aid of medication.**

Symptoms to screen for:

Cough
Congestion or runny nose
Diarrhea
Fever and Chills
Headache
Muscle or body aches
Nausea and vomiting
New loss of taste or smell
Shortness of breath/ difficulty breathing
Sore throat
Unusual level of fatigue

Quarantine protocol - There are several scenarios in which the school will and will not require isolation/quarantine and are evaluated case by case based on the most current guidance from Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH).

Mask / Face coverings are optional:

Out of our desire to respect one another, students, staff, parents, and visitors have the option to wear masks. It is also understood by the school that for reasons of health, certain students and staff may choose to wear face coverings. Due to confidentiality around the issue of health, the school's faculty and staff will not engage a student as to the reason that they are wearing a face covering.

Personal responsibility - Grace Christian Academy expects all students and staff to demonstrate personal responsibility for their individual health and to work towards minimizing the risk of contagious spread. The school trusts that parents will inform their students about these responsibilities and those teachers will remind students when necessary. Specifically, the school expects all students and staff to follow these preventative steps:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If possible, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer is also available throughout the campus.
- Bring a non-glass water bottle that is labeled with the student's name.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- No sharing of food or drink of any type.
- Attempt to maintain a distance of 3 feet from others when possible.

Exceptional attendance situations - Grace Christian Academy is committed to the philosophy that in order for quality education to occur, regular student attendance is necessary and required. Absence from school is always detrimental to the academic progress of the student. In accordance with school philosophy, at each grade level, the administration has determined that a student who accumulates too many absences within a semester may lose credit for the class. Parents are asked to notify the office when they first learn of the possibility of an extended illness. For the purpose of clarity, the school considers Covid-19 infection to be an "acute illness". In that these are exceptional times, the school is prepared to make allowances for absences if a parent considers their student is at-risk or displaying symptoms. During a period of quarantine/isolation teachers may expect students to engage with their class each day.

Social distancing protocols - By its very nature, social distancing within an educational setting is difficult. Within classrooms, it will be the aspiration of all school staff to provide for social distancing whenever possible. This may include placement of the desks within a classroom and assigned seating for students. However, parents should recognize that providing for complete social distancing will not be possible. In these instances, students and staff will have the opportunity to wear a mask if they choose. During breaks, lunches, and recesses allowances for social distancing will be provided.

Cleaning protocols - A third party janitorial firm has been hired to clean and sanitize classrooms nightly. The school will ask that students and staff wash/sanitize hands upon entering the classroom, after using the restroom, and before eating. The teachers and staff have an itemized list outlining the sanitation of their classrooms. The school will provide resources to help maintain the standard of cleanliness.

Athletics - The elements of the Campus Readiness Plan outlined above are identical to what is expected of coaches and student athletes. Ultimately, however, the decision to use face coverings is the domain of parents. We are monitoring the release of additional guidelines from the Cactus Christian Schools League as it pertains to spectators and athletics.