



Grace Christian Academy Covid-19 Mitigation and Campus Readiness Plan Fall 2020

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.
- GCA is resolute in its commitment to re-open for on-campus learning for students on Monday, August 17th.
- Planning and development of the Campus Readiness Plan has included key stakeholders: school board members, administration, faculty, and staff. Additionally, the school has closely followed the “Planning Matrix for Re-opening” from the Association of Christian Schools International.
- 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.

Objectives: The purpose of the Fall 2020 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 7:55am 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. Aside from visitors to the campus (see below), potential screening of students for symptoms will take place upon arrival to the campus classroom.*

Classroom screening of students for symptoms - By virtue of the expectations established by the school and communicated to each member of the staff, every member of the school’s faculty and staff has the opportunity to conduct an impromptu assessment of a student’s symptoms. Every classroom has been equipped with a noncontact forehead thermometer.

Student temperatures will be taken each day at approximately 8:00am by their homeroom teacher. If the classroom staff suspects that a student is displaying symptoms of any type of illness based on the temperature reading they will send the student immediately to the student health office where the school nurse will diagnose the student. Classroom teachers should send a student to the student health office if any of the following are true: (1) after using a thermometer, the student's temperature is above 100.0°F, (2) the student is persistently coughing or sneezing, or (3) if the student is displaying any of the symptoms consistent with illness. Conversely, school staff will recognize that if they are personally displaying any symptoms, 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, unless they have tested positive for Covid-19.*** If they have tested positive, they will be required to follow the quarantine protocol described below.

Quarantine protocol - There are several scenarios in which the school will and will not require quarantine. These are described below. In addition to understanding these scenarios, families and staff should also review [Covid-19 Guidance for School Response to a Covid-19 Case](#) from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

- **Personal, positive test whether symptomatic or asymptomatic** - If a staff member or student has been assessed by a medical professional who has diagnosed them as positive for Covid-19, the expectation of the school is that the individual would immediately engage a quarantine protocol and alert the school to the diagnosis. This individual would be expected to quarantine, away from campus, for a period of 10 days. The individual may return to campus once they have been following the isolation protocol and been symptom free for 24 hours.
- **Personal, negative test but symptomatic** - If a person is symptomatic and tested negative for COVID 19, stay home away from others under isolation precautions until; at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; and other symptoms have improved.
- **Symptomatic but untested** - If a student or staff member is symptomatic but has not been tested for Covid-19, they should remain away from campus and under isolation precautions until: at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND other symptoms have improved. (Each case will be individually evaluated especially during cold and flu season.)
- **Incidental exposure to Covid-19** - If a student or staff member has been exposed to Covid-19 and/or alerted to potential exposure via contact tracing protocols but has not displayed symptoms associated with Covid-19, the individual will not be required to engage quarantine protocols and may attend classes if they wish.

Symptoms which are consistent with Covid-19 infection include:

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

Face covering protocols - Out of our desire to respect one another, students, staff, parents, and visitors will be expected to wear masks during certain times of transition on campus. These times may include but are not necessarily limited to: drop-off, transitioning to and from specials classes, and or other periods, and pick-up. The expectation is that any mask that is worn on campus will not be a source of distraction and will be free of any words or messages. It is also understood by the school that for reasons of health, certain students and staff cannot be required 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 not wearing a face covering.

Release of liability waiver - In our effort to be in compliance with our insurance provider, Grace Christian Academy asks that all families sign a limited release of liability waiver. This will ensure that families have reviewed this Campus Readiness Plan and acknowledge implicit risks within the plan. A copy of that waiver is included within this information.

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 that 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 six feet from others when possible.
- With regard to face coverings, it will be understood that the student understands personal, proper care and cleaning of the covering and how best to put on and remove the covering independently.

Visitors to campus - Between 8:10am and 3:00pm, any visitors to the campus will check in through the front office where they will sign in and have their temperature recorded. In addition, visitors may be asked a couple of simple diagnostic screening questions. This will include all parents, vendors, third-party contractors, prospective students and their families, shadow students, etc. If the visitor's temperature is recorded above 100.0°F, they will not be able to visit the campus.

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 teachers may expect students to engage 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. For example, this includes quarantine protocols, expectations for personal responsibility, providing allowances for social distancing whenever possible, and screening of symptoms by coaches prior to practices and games. However, one difference will be that the school will discourage use of face coverings when engaged within athletic activity as coverings could incite other potential risks. 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.

Chapel - For at least the months of August and September, chapels will be pre-recorded or live-streamed into classrooms.