

Protocols for Safe and Healthy Schools

As we approach the start of the 2021-2022 school year I want to communicate our public health policy and practices. Public health policies and practices are subject to change if and when circumstances change. GCS will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards. Updates to safety protocols will be posted on our website as needed.

Screening Protocols

Individuals should self-screen or parents should screen their children each day checking for the symptoms listed below. Be prudent and exercise common sense. Do not overreact or downplay symptoms. Neither staff nor students should report to school/work if they have fever (true for all illnesses) or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Absences should be reported to the school front office. Consider seeking a healthcare provider for testing and care to guide you.

- Feeling feverish or measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Isolation Protocols

- If a student displays the above symptoms at school, the school office will provide an assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home.
- Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be permitted to return to school when they have documented the following requirements:
 - They are 1 day (24 hours) fever-free without using fever-reducing medication; and
 - Improved symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, etc.); and

- 10 days have passed since symptoms began.
- Positive cases at school will be reported to staff and families with children in the same classroom.
- If an individual who has been in a school or district facility is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its Hunt County Health Department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- GCS will not require students and staff to quarantine for exposure to a COVID -19 positive individual. It is strongly recommended that individuals who are exposed, quarantine for at least 5 days or have a COVID test and test negative before they return to school.

Protocols for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks are optional for all students, visitors, and staff both inside a building and outside. Individual choices will be respected.

Protocols for Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccine is not required. Seek competent medical advice to make your decision.

Protocols for Athletic Events

Currently TAPPS does not require vaccines or face masks to participate or attend competitions. This is subject to change and is beyond our control.

Protocols for Campus

Classrooms and activities will do their best to ensure students remain socially distanced (3 feet or greater) when possible, but social distancing is not feasible in all situations.

Staff and students will continue to be expected to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.

Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or other similar disinfectants are made readily available.

Common areas should be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doors, tables, chairs, benches, bleachers, lockers, and restrooms.

Opportunities to be in fresh air will be provided.

Food, water, drinks and other similar items are not shared.

Students are asked to bring water bottles to avoid drinking from water fountains. Water fountains will only be used to fill water bottles.

Students will have the opportunity to get outside for fresh air.

Mixing of grades in large group settings in small spaces will be limited. All lunches will be in the classrooms. Secondary chapel will be in the gym. Elementary chapel will be in the MPAC.

All classes are scheduled to meet in-person.

Thank you for entrusting your student to our care. We continue to monitor COVID-19 conditions locally and encourage every GCS family to practice personal hygiene measures we know to be important. Be a good steward of your bodies. Pray for prudence and strength for your family, school, and healthcare workers. Exercise and eat healthy. Should changes in protocol be warranted, we will do our best to provide as much advance notice as possible.