

Grace Lutheran Christian School COVID-19 Reopening Plan

GLCS COVID-19 Compliance Team

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with

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Letter to the Grace Lutheran School Family

Welcome to face-to-face in-person instruction at Grace Lutheran School! Grace has provided a safe, quality, Christ-centered education for your students during the COVID-19 pandemic through Camp Grace child care and distance learning, teaching full curriculum while abiding by all public health guidelines. We are now able to take the next step to bring K-6 students into the classroom with direct teacher instruction. We hope grades 7-8 are allowed to do this soon as well. In this plan you will find the COVID-19 policies and procedures that have been implemented to make sure we can provide a safe, in-person education. Please take the time to read through them so that you know what to expect this school year.

Some things to note:

- By entering our campus, you are attesting that you have pre-screened yourself and your child/ren for COVID-19 symptoms and are safe to enter. A pre-screener and "Should My Student Return to School" flow-chart are available at the end of this plan.
- It is very important that the school has the most up-to-date emergency contact information, including multiple parent contact options. If your contact information changes throughout the year, please let us know as soon as possible.
- In order to ensure continued on-campus learning, we are minimizing parental contact on the campus. As such, all visits must be pre-arranged with the teacher and principal.
- All visitors to our campus MUST check-in at the office and receive a dated sticker showing they have been screened by office personnel.
- We respectfully request that parents be mindful of our school community when making travel plans. Like our local community, we have students and staff who are in the higher risk groups for contracting COVID, and we want to minimize everyone's risk on our campus.

We look forward to teaching students directly as we ask for the Lord's blessings on our school families and campus community.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

In His Service,
J Gynther
Principal

Campus Screening

- **All persons must self-screen each day before entering campus.**
- **All visitors ages 2 and older must wear a face covering indoors on campus.**
- **For Drop-Off:** Students should go directly to their classroom from their vehicles during drop-off. Parents in grades K-4 may walk students to the track in front of their classroom. Students in grades 5-8 should walk independently when possible.
- **Afternoon pick-up for grades K-4:** Students will be dismissed from their classroom. Teachers will stand at the door and watch for parents. Parents may wave from the car or socially distance on the track. Parents should not wait at the door.
- **Afternoon pick-up for grades 5-8:** Students will be waiting in the area of the awning/picnic tables. Students will be dismissed to parents as soon as they see their car.
- **Until further notice, our playground areas are not available for personal use before or after school.**

Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom

- Designated spaces are created for students during circle or group time (ie: seating spots) spaced for social distancing to minimize face-to-face contact.
- Students and teachers are spaced at least 3 feet apart when possible.
- Non-classroom space is open for instruction along with outdoor space when weather permits.
- Physical distance is practiced in a developmentally appropriate way.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

- Staff model/teach hand-washing for students to wash hands before/after recess and prior to any eating.
- Hand-washing stations are in classrooms and bathrooms.
- Hand sanitizer is provided for use throughout the day.
- Tissues are available for cough and/or sneezing with proper hygiene modeled. Hands are washed after coughing and sneezing.
- Students are encouraged to reduce frequent touch to the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cloth face coverings must be worn indoors for all students kindergarten-eighth grade as well as all adults, except while eating, drinking, or carrying out other activities that preclude the use of face coverings. Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.
- Cloth face coverings should be washed after each day's use to prevent illness.
- Parents are encouraged to keep a secondary face covering in a sealable bag in their backpack for their student in case something happens to the first face covering.

Maintaining Healthy Environments

- Sanitizing of high touch areas in classrooms and common spaces is implemented by staff throughout the day (door handles, sink handles, light switches, tables, desks, chairs, etc.)
- Disinfecting of classrooms and spaces utilized during the day occurs overnight.
- Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottles. Students may refill bottles from classroom sinks with teacher permission.
- Evaporative coolers only bring in outside air. Doors and windows are open to increase proper ventilation when possible.
- Classrooms have individual heating and cooling systems which eliminate cross-classroom airflow.
- Cleaning supplies are applied and stored appropriately out of the reach of children.
- Adequate supplies are available to avoid shared objects when feasible.

Maintaining Healthy Operations

- Classroom practices are implemented to minimize contact for a variety of everyday tasks (turning in assignments, getting supplies, etc.)
- For grades K-4, lunch is eaten in classrooms or outside to ensure social distancing and minimize congregant movement. Grades 5-8 eat in the cafeteria at separate tables.
- Students do not share food, drinks, or utensils. Parents should make sure to include any needed utensils. Class treats must be pre-arranged with the teacher.
- Grace Lutheran does not provide food for snacks, lunches, or any other activities.
- Volunteers are not present in campus activities unless they have been pre-authorized by teachers and principal.
- Classroom field trips and activities are virtual.
- Large group gatherings such as chapel are spaced to avoid close contact between classes.
- The classroom provides an environment to support the social-emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of our students, families, and staff.

School Exposure Management Plan

- **Staff and students are instructed not to come to school and to notify the school office if they or someone in their family becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive.** This includes being exposed to someone with COVID-19 or a suspected case (for example, the parent of a student who is exposed at their workplace.)
- **Staff and students with one major or multiple minor COVID-19 symptoms at school are immediately moved to the unused church office to wait for pickup.** Major symptoms may include: Fever (100.4°F or higher), loss of taste or smell, nausea/vomiting, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with asthma/allergies, a change from their baseline,) or diarrhea. Minor symptoms may include: chills, repeated shaking with chills, fatigue, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, or congestion/runny nose.
- **Students must be picked up by parent/guardian within 30 minutes of notification.** Informational materials will be given to families regarding isolation, quarantine, and return to school. Staff will make sure families know where to go to get tested. Parents will be informed that DPH may follow-up directly with them through the DPH Case and Contact Investigation Program.
- **Areas used by any sick person are closed off and not used again before cleaning and disinfecting.**
- **School schedules and seating plans will be used to trace exposure to positive cases.** Exposed persons will be notified by the school via phone call and quarantine protocols will go into effect. Information regarding testing services will be provided to all exposed. A list of exposed persons will also be provided to DPH within one business day. The school will determine if wider notification is needed.
- **Staff and students do not return to school until they have met the following criteria:**
 - Anyone who has been in **CLOSE CONTACT** (more than 15 minutes) with someone with COVID-19 must stay home for a 10 day quarantine from the last time they were exposed, or if they receive two negative COVID-19 tests at least 24 hours apart.
 - Anyone who **HAS SYMPTOMS BUT DOES NOT GET TESTED** may return after they have been fever free for 24 hours without medication, AND respiratory symptoms have improved, AND 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. If the student or staff member is diagnosed by a doctor with a different illness (strep, allergies, etc.), they may return upon clearance from the doctor. A note from the medical office must be given to the school office.
 - Anyone who receives one **NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST** may return 3 days after symptoms subside, or if they submit results from two negative tests taken more than 24 hours apart.
 - Anyone who receives a **POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST** must stay home from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date. Exposed staff, classmates, and their households must quarantine for 10 days after the last date of exposure.
 - **This criteria also applies to parents and visitors.**

- **All students required to quarantine for any reason will immediately be shifted to the distance learning program until they can safely return to school.**
- **If the school is notified of a cluster of 3 or more confirmed cases (students and/or employees) within a 14 day period, the DPH will be notified within one business day. The DPH will review available information and determine if school closure is necessary.**

Testing for Staff and Students

- Exposed or symptomatic employees will be encouraged to contact their health provider for testing.
- Free testing for all Los Angeles county residents is available and can be accessed via the following website: [Free Covid-19 Testing Sites](#)

Total or Partial Closure

- In consultation with the local public health department, the COVID-19 Compliance Team decides whether school closure is warranted, including the length of time necessary, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.
- If a cluster of cases occurs (three or more positive COVID-19 tests within 14 days), the Department of Public Health will be notified via email or phone call.
- Communication plans for school closure are implemented via email to include outreach to parents, teachers, and staff while maintaining confidentiality as required by law.
- Guidance is provided to parents, teachers, and staff reminding them of the importance of community physical distancing measures while a school is closed, including discouraging students and staff from gathering elsewhere.
- Regular communication is maintained with the local public health department.
- Students who are affected by closure immediately enter the distance learning program.