



# GCHS Reopening Guidelines

## FAQs

### **What will students, teachers, and visitors be required to do upon entry?**

Students and teachers will be required to pass a health screening/temperature checks every morning prior to be allowed on campus. Students will not be allowed to enter campus if they have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or more.

### **Will there be any other requirements during the school day for students?**

Choir students will also be required to take an additional temperature check before entering choir classes.

### **Are masks required on campus? (updated 7/31/2020)**

- Due to the guidance of the GCS Board and Superintendent, GCS will require masks for high school students while in the hallways, common areas, and cafeteria (except while eating lunch) due to physical distancing not being consistently possible during those times. This small inconvenience to help keep our students and our staff safe.
- Masks are optional for students while in the classroom during the school day, but recommended for both staff and students.
- All visitors to campus will be required to wear a mask at all times including in the office foyer.

### **If a student is exposed to COVID and at school will the entire class quarantined?**

- GCS will not quarantine when there are incidences of possible exposure. However, GCHS will notify students and parents via email from high school administration. If a student/staff has symptoms, then they must follow the return-to-school protocol (see Key Implementations below).
- GCHS will be using symptoms and not just “exposure” as a requirement to stay home for staff and students.

### **If a child has a fever (no positive test for COVID) do their siblings have to stay home as well as the child?**

If siblings have symptoms, then they must follow the return to class protocol. If they are not experiencing symptoms they are allowed to be in class.



## **If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, is the entire class quarantined?**

No, only the student or teacher who tests positive will be quarantined.

## **Is there a plan for if GCS has to shut down again?**

Yes, there is. Our Swivl cameras are an excellent solution in the event of a shut down. Teachers will continue to teach “live” using Swivl in order for students to continue learning as normally as possible.

## **How are classrooms being cleaned and sanitized?**

High touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day and each night during normal cleaning procedures. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other disinfecting materials will be available throughout the campus. Classrooms will be cleaned throughout the day and in between classes.

## **Who is tracking, documenting, and communicating health concerns?**

Each campus will have one staff member assigned to track all health related documentation and communication to students, parents, teachers, and administration.

## **Will there be a remote program offered for students who are not able to meet live, in-person?**

GCHS will offer a remote, virtual, and synchronous learning option for those students who sign up to not attend live, in-person classes. Details can be found under GCHS Swivl Remote Learning Guidelines.

## **I want my child to wear a mask at school. Will the staff make sure this happens during the day?**

- It will be your child’s responsibility to keep their mask on and use it properly. Teachers will not be responsible to monitor proper mask wearing protocol because they are focused on instruction.
- We recommend that you provide your child with a few extra clean masks in a plastic baggie in their backpack in case a mask is soiled, gets wet, or falls on the ground.
- GCHS cannot provide an extra clean mask if a student’s mask breaks or is contaminated by use/dropping.



## Guiding Principles in Reopening Our School

The overriding principles in our reopening plan are:

1. **Flexible:** It is critical that our plan provides flexibility for families as they make decisions regarding the safety of their families during this pandemic. We understand every family has their own unique health concerns, and those concerns may change during the school year.
2. **Consistent:** Because we believe that we must provide a consistent level of learning for your children, the plan must provide instructional delivery flexibility throughout the pandemic as guidelines and mandates from the CDC, Arizona Department of Education, Maricopa County Health Department and the Arizona Governor may change based on new information.
3. **Safe:** For those families who decide to send their student to school, we must provide a safe and loving school environment for students and staff on all of our GCS campuses.
4. **Quality:** The plan must provide the quality of education that Gilbert Christian parents have come to expect.

## Key Implementations for Re-Opening Fall 2020

The actions below outline the steps we are taking to successfully reopen our schools in fall 2020. Our strategic goal is to provide campus life that is as close to "normal" as can be achieved.

### **Sick students and staff should not come to school.**

- Parents are asked to do a screening of their child's health at home.
- Temperature check-temperature in excess of 100.0 degrees without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Symptoms check:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea



### **Students who have had symptoms may attend school when:**

- 3 days with no fever **and**
- Symptoms improved **and**
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **or**
- Documentation from a doctor stating that it is safe for your child to return to school. We understand that a child may have these symptoms, but not have COVID-19. We ask that you provide a doctor's note that indicates that your child is currently sick due to another cause or communicate with us if your child has another condition that might create similar symptoms.

### **Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and had symptoms may return to school when:**

- 3 days with no fever **and**
- Respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **and**
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, but have no symptoms may return to school 10 days following receiving the positive results from the test or two negative test results, at least 24 hours apart

### **Students and staff upon arrival on campus:**

- Students and teachers will be required to pass a health screening/temperature checks every morning prior to be allowed on campus. Students will not be allowed to enter campus if they have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or more.
- Students exhibiting any symptoms while at school will be quarantined on-site until parents are able to pick up their child from school.
- Teachers will observe students for symptoms of COVID-19 that may develop during the school day. Any student showing symptoms will be sent to the office to be sent home.

### **Parents and guests upon arrival on campus:**

- All parents and guests will be required to wear a mask when they come on campus including the office foyer.
- Guests will be limited on campus to small groups leaders, lunch moms, coaches, subs, and classroom volunteers (on a limited basis)

### **Targeted health precautions:**

- Social distancing will be observed as much as possible. GCS focuses on small class sizes which will assist in this area.
- Regular hand washing and sanitizing will be required.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in classrooms and commons areas.



- Additional cleaning will occur throughout the facility on a consistent basis throughout the day with a thorough cleaning each night.

### **Safe learning spaces:**

- Reducing the number of shared items. Students will have their own school supplies and these will be kept individually in their desk, backpack, locker or other container.
- Adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials will be provided, i.e., art supplies, science equipment, etc. Supplies and equipment will be used by one group of students at a time and then will be cleaned and disinfected between uses whenever possible.

### **Measures to prevent crowds from gathering:**

- Additional spaces will be utilized to allow students to "spread out" when eating.
- To limit exposure, school events such as assemblies, chapels, concerts, etc. may be streamed and/or recorded.
- Limits will be placed on non-essential visitors and their access to our building.

### **On-site quarantine area:**

- Located in the HS Office.
- Will be used for students who show symptoms of being sick once the school day starts.
- Will provide a safe location until parent/guardian can pick up their child

### **Athletics:**

Our goal is to provide students with the opportunity in athletic programs in line with the requirements from the AIA. Our Athletic Director, Matt Johnson, will continue to provide specific guidelines and work with individual athletic programs to ensure safe engagement in athletics. The GCHS Athletic Department will communicate with coaches and student-athletes regarding sport-specific plans, guidelines, and scheduling. Please look for upcoming email blast updates from Mr. Johnson.

### **Chapels/small groups:**

Chapels will be recorded each week and shown at the end of 2nd period on the Tuesday's they are scheduled. Small Groups will still be taking place on Wednesdays. Small Groups are limited to 8-12 students and spaced throughout the entire campus.



## **Choir**

- We understand that singing may increase the spread of viruses.
- All students will have their temperature checked prior to the start of each class in addition to the screening at the start of school day.
- Social distancing will be observed as much as possible including using another room, gym, or outdoors rather than the choir room. This will help allow for more space for students to spread out.

## **After School Activities/Clubs**

All students who are participating in a school sponsored after school activity and/or club will need to remain supervised in the designated location.

## **Snack Break**

GCHS will not have the traditional snack break (10 minutes between second and third periods) until further notice.

## **Departure from School**

Students will be asked to leave campus immediately after the end of the school day (2:30p) and/or Z Hour (2:30p- 3:15p) unless they are involved in a school sponsored activity.

## **Lunch Program**

Please access the lunch program online at <http://gcsaz.org/hotlunchprogram/>. It is appreciated that you order ahead of time; Weekly (Sunday night for the week ahead) or even Monthly. This helps our vendors forecast their supply. Please note that students are always welcome to bring their own lunch from home. We have a team of lunch volunteers who serve our kids daily and will be happy to microwave your student's meal if needed.

## **Off Campus Food Deliveries**

Students will not be allowed to order food from vendors such as Grubhub, Uber Eats, Door Dash, etc. Parents are asked not to deliver food to their child during the school day.

## **Concluding Thoughts**

Gilbert Christian Schools believes in partnering with parents as they raise their children. GCS has developed a plan that is flexible, consistent, safe and provides a quality education both on and off campus. This will be a time of adjusting and adapting for everyone in the GCS community. All plans are based on what is known today and changes will be made as progress is made in managing this pandemic. Please continue to remain flexible. As we work together through the current challenges, we rest in the words from Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose".