

Gig Harbor Academy Health and Safety Practices

Version 10/28/20

Goal:

Gig Harbor Academy is committed to providing the safest possible environment for reopening in person.

Overview

1. At Home Practices and Screening
2. Returning to School After Having Suspected Signs of COVID-19
3. Cleaning and Sanitizing Practices
 1. *Face Coverings*
 2. *Cohorting*
 3. *Cleaning and Disinfection*
 4. *Material Use*
 5. *Physical Space*
4. Mental Health & Social-Emotional Wellbeing Considerations:

At Home Practices and Screening

Keeping children safe begins with establishing safe habits at home and limiting student's interaction outside of school and home. Keeping our community safe is a collaborative effort. We ask that all families limit their exposure to others, and maintain social distancing measures as much as possible.

Prior to coming to school each morning, parents will be required to complete a brief health screening tool for their child. The screening will include the following three questions:

1) Does the individual have any of the following Class A symptoms that are not caused by another illness?

- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Cough
- Loss of sense of taste and/or smell
- Shortness of breath.

2) Does the person have 2 or more of the following Class B symptoms, or 1 or more of these symptoms lasting more than 24 hours?

- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea.

3) Has the individual had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19?

In the classroom the teacher will also take the students temperature and will monitor the students for sign of Covid-19.

GHA will conduct temperature checks throughout the day if a child is suspected of having suspected signs of Covid-19.

Returning to School After Having Suspected Signs of COVID-19

A staff member or student who had signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to the program when any of the following are met:

- It has been 24 hours since a Class B symptom has improved
- A Health Care Provider has provided a note that the child can return to school
- Fever and symptoms improve with documentation of a negative Covid-19 test
- It has been 10 days since symptom onset and 24 hours with no symptoms or fever.

If a person has been notified by a health authority that they have had close contact to with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, but they are not sick, they should watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the person sick with COVID-19. They should not go to childcare, school, or public places for 14 days.

If a child is self-isolating because of symptoms, they should visit their Health Care Provider and ask if they should be given a COVID-19 test.

If a child or faculty or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, we will immediately notify their class and any individual who was in contact with the child.

If any child, faculty or staff tests positive for Covid-19, we will notify the whole school community that there has been a case on campus, and which class the case was in. We transition the affected class to distance learning for 14 days after the last day that individual was on campus. The classroom will undergo a deep clean. The unaffected classes will continue with in-person at the school.

- The school will also send out notifications about a positive case of Covid-19 on campus if advised to by TPCHD.
- If an individual at the school comes into contact with someone that has tested positive for Covid-19 they should self-isolate and follow the guidelines for when they can return to school from self-isolating.
- HIPAA laws prohibit GHA from disclosing individuals who have tested positive for Covid-19.

Cleaning and Sanitizing Practices

Face Coverings

In accordance with the State mandate, all students aged 5 and older are required to wear a face covering, cloth mask or face shields while indoors, or outdoors and unable to maintain 6 ft of distance. In addition we strongly encourage all students below age 5 to wear face coverings. Students are permitted to remove face coverings to eat at their desk while seated and distanced 6ft away from others.

Cohorting

- Students at GHA are divided into single class cohorts that will not mix for any classes.
- Indoor classroom spaces will be dedicated for the sole use of that cohort with the exception of the Specialist Room which will be cleaned between uses.
- GHA's Kindergarten Prep, Preschool and Childcare classes will only use their own learning environment and the outdoor environments.
- Before and after care groups will not mix. They will form three intact groups Childcare, Kinder Prep, and K-5, with limited numbers and outdoor based activities where possible.

Cleaning and Disinfection

GHA will be cleaned daily and disinfected and with particular attention paid to frequently touched surfaces. Cleaning practices will follow CDC guidelines.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fdisinfecting-building-facility.html.

- A dedicated cleaner will wipe down and clean each classroom touchpoints and used materials each day.
- Professional cleaners will clean the school five days a week.
- Classroom teachers will be provided with CDC approved cleaning solutions, as well as UV light wand for disinfecting materials during the school day.
- Touchless hand sanitizer dispensers and soap dispensers will be used throughout the school

Material Use

Use of shared objects will be limited when possible or cleaned between use.

When use of shared material is necessary for pedagogical purposes, students will wash hands immediately before and afterward, and the materials will be cleaned immediately before and designated "Used" immediately afterward.

Each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.

Extra supplies will be provided so that students have individual materials when feasible.

Physical Space

We will maximize circulation of outside air as much as possible by opening windows and doors.

Classes will use outdoor learning environments such as the pavilion and tents as much as possible to minimize the amount of time spent indoors.

In K-5 classrooms students will be seated at desks or tables at least 6 feet apart when feasible.

Desks will be turned to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or students will sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.

Physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, will be used to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times.

There will be no indoor shared spaces on campus except for the specialist classroom. The only shared spaces will be our outdoor environments.

Mental Health & Social-Emotional Wellbeing Considerations:

Since the school experience will be very different from before with desks far apart from each other, teachers and students maintaining physical distance, it will be unlike anything your child is used to. Before school is in session, please talk to your child and explain that all these steps are being taken to keep everyone safe and healthy. The list below provides actions and considerations regarding your child's mental health and emotional well-being as they transition back to in-person school. CDC's [Stress and Coping During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) provides additional resources for you and your family. In addition, if your child seems to need mental health or behavioral services (e.g., social skills training, counseling).

Actions to take and points to consider:

- Talk with your child about how school will look different (e.g., desks far apart from each other, teachers maintaining physical distance, everyone wearing face coverings).
- Talk with your child about how school is going and about interactions with classmates and teachers. Find out how your child is feeling and communicate that what they may be feeling is normal.
- Anticipate behavior changes in your child. Watch for changes like excessive crying or irritation, excessive worry or sadness, unhealthy eating or sleeping habits, difficulty concentrating, which may be signs of your child struggling with stress and anxiety.
- Try to attend school activities and meetings. Schools may offer more of these virtually. As a parent, staying informed and connected may reduce your feelings of anxiety and provide a way for you to express any concerns you may have about your child's school