

GPS Pandemic Response Plan

Revised 10-12-2021

GPS is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all its students, parents, employees, and guests. We have developed the following Pandemic Response Plan (PRP) for the 2021–22 school year that will guide our decisions regarding the opening of our campus to students and employees as well as our overall program. We recognize that through the implementation of the following coordinated efforts, we can greatly reduce, not eliminate, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. We strive to balance our mitigation policies with the known benefits of children experiencing in-person learning at school.

Granada Preparatory School's Pandemic Response Plan is based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) and [Los Angeles County Department of Health](#). Granada Preparatory School will update this PRP as federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations change.

Implementation

To be effective, **GPS's** PRP requires the full cooperation of all our community members, and everyone is responsible for implementing and complying with the School's PRP. This plan includes steps that the School is taking to mitigate COVID-19 contagion. In accordance with the County protocols, the school has instituted a COVID-19 Compliance Task Force made up of faculty and staff members that will follow and monitor the implementation of this plan on a schoolwide basis.

This PRP addresses the health and safety procedures that **GPS** has implemented and the responsibilities of the School and its community members, including:

- prevention procedures, including hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- procedures for safe physical distancing and limiting visitors, including parents, to campus;
- cleaning and sanitizing information;
- screening procedures and policies for anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms;
- prompt identification and isolation of sick individuals
- protection and controls for student pick-up and drop-off; and
- employee training and ongoing communications.

School Program: On-Campus Learning, the Hybrid Program and Distance Learning

We will begin the 2021-2022 school year with on-campus learning. Should conditions change, we have a plan in place to switch to remote learning.

On-Campus Learning

We are excited to welcome students back to **GPS** for on-campus learning, and we will offer a full-day schedule that includes early morning drop-off, Specialists classes, and Extended Day Programs as feasible. **GPS's** physical and human resources enable us to provide an at-school, in-person education under current health and safety guidelines. Some program modifications that you may see will include: smaller class sizes; a new daily schedule with hand-washing times built in; and designated spaces for each class group for lunch and recess.

Distance Learning if Campus is Closed or if a Class has to Quarantine

We learned a lot through our distance learning experience last year, and if we are required to reinstate distance learning, our students will still experience the meaningful and consistent learning that is a hallmark of the **GPS** education. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate schedules that are a balance of live content and meaningful assignments. The School will continue to utilize a number of digital tools for learning, engagement, and assessment.

Mitigation Strategies

We will implement basic infection prevention measures, including the promotion of handwashing, respiratory etiquette, and the use of face coverings. Continual on-campus learning will only be possible with all of us working together to follow these health and safety guidelines, on and off-campus. Additionally, all staff members must be fully vaccinated.

Handwashing

Frequent handwashing is critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Additional handwashing sinks have been installed to accommodate our students. Hand sanitizer dispensers are at entrances and in all classrooms throughout the school. Students, employees, parents, and visitors should wash or sanitize their hands after entering a building. Everyone is instructed to frequently wash their hands throughout the day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, but especially at the beginning and end of their time on campus, before and after mealtimes, after specialist classes, and after using the restroom. Handwashing times will be built into the daily schedule for all students.

Respiratory etiquette

In addition to wearing a mask, everyone should cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose, and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

Face coverings

Everyone age two and older must wear a face covering while on campus—including during drop-off and pick-up—and provide their own face coverings. The only exceptions to face mask use are during eating, drinking, and napping. The use of face coverings is an important way that we, as a community, can protect each other by mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

CDC guidelines provide general considerations for wearing and maintaining a face covering, including the following:

- The mouth and nose are fully covered
- The covering fits snugly against the sides of the face so there are no gaps
- The wearer does not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the covering
- Masks with one-way valves are not acceptable

Cleaning and Disinfecting

GPS has implemented updated cleaning practices. This includes routine cleaning throughout the campus. We will administer frequent cleaning of high-touch areas and items, such as toys, manipulatives, door handles, railings, etc. All students and employees will practice healthy hygiene, including frequent handwashing, throughout the day. Disinfecting will occur following any positive COVID-19 case.

Limiting Campus Access

As virus spread appears more likely between adults, we are restricting parent and visitor access to student learning spaces. All parents and visitors must enter through the main reception area, wear face coverings, and be screened upon arrival.

Shared Items

Teachers will limit the sharing of classroom materials and workspaces between students and will clean items as needed. Only items that can be easily cleaned will be used. No personal toys will be allowed on campus.

Students and employees should bring and use a refillable water bottle and use the water bottle refilling stations. Please label your child's water bottle. Water fountains will be available for refilling bottles only.

Travel and Field Trips

Off-campus field trips will be limited, following CDC and County guidelines in effect at any time.

Arrival/Departure Procedure

We will establish procedures to minimize contact at school between students, staff, families and the community at the beginning and end of the school day. This will involve the use of staggered arrival and pick-up times and locations.

Deliveries

Parents will not be allowed beyond Reception to deliver items to students. We will receive all deliveries at Reception.

Health Screenings and Symptom Assessment and Reporting

We will continue to inform and encourage families and employees to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. As defined by the CDC, individuals with COVID-19 may have any of the following symptoms, which may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle or body aches, congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Also according to the CDC, this list of symptoms does not include all possible symptoms. Please contact your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

The School has implemented the following policies and procedures to assess a person's health status prior to entering the School; to provide guidelines for screening individuals before they are allowed to enter the building; and to provide a process for families to report when they are sick, experiencing symptoms, or if they or anyone in their household have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Before arriving on campus

Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or knows that they have COVID-19 should isolate at home. In addition, parents should communicate with the School if one of them or a member of their household tests positive for COVID-19, experiences symptoms of COVID-19, or has close contact with someone who is positive or symptomatic of COVID-19. CDC currently defines "close contact" as "someone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period, starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated, OR anyone who has been exposed to body fluids or secretions (such as sneeze or cough droplets) of a positive case.

Parents should take their children's temperature before arriving on campus and keep their child home if they have a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above.

Students will have their temperatures checked on campus each day when they arrive. Any student with a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above must immediately leave the campus.

Policies for Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms

If a student is sick or experiencing symptoms at school, the teacher or other designated adult will escort the student directly to the isolation room and report to the school office so that parents will be notified to pick up the student within half an hour.

Anyone who is absent or sent home due to exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 shall not be permitted back in school again until they have:

- Received a negative COVID test or obtains a doctor's note stating that the symptoms are not COVID related, AND
- Been fever and fever medication free for at least 24 hours, AND
- Other symptoms have improved.
- Please consult your family's healthcare provider if you have specific concerns about your or your child's health or would like further medical evaluation.

Anyone who is absent due to a positive COVID-19 test shall not be permitted back in school until at least 10 days after the positive test result, and no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.

Any unvaccinated person who has had close contact with a person who has COVID-19 shall not be permitted back in school until 10 days after last exposure (or 7 days if they have tested negative for COVID-19 on or after the 5th day). This person should check temperature twice daily, be observant for any onset of symptoms, and obtain a COVID-19 test. Test results should be shared with the school to assist in determination of possible disease spread. They should also stay away from anyone who is at higher risk for getting sick.

Fully vaccinated persons who have been exposed to COVID-19 do not have to quarantine only if they have no symptoms. Such persons should nevertheless monitor their health for any symptom onset for 14 days.

Extended Programs and Childcare

We will offer Extended Day Care (EDC) and will maintain the guidelines in this PRP.

Training and Preparedness

GPS will train all staff and provide educational materials to families in the following safety actions

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Use and cleaning of face coverings
- Screening practices
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification

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