

Gig Harbor Academy Health and Safety Practices

Version 8/5/20

Goal:

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

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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.

Prior to coming to school each morning, parents will be required to complete a brief survey. This survey will ask parents if their child is attending GHA that day, if they are not an explanation of why the student is staying home is required. If the student is attending, the parent will be required to complete a daily health screening for their child which includes recording their temperature.

The screening will include the following questions:

Does your student have any of the following symptoms in the past 24 hours (on the first day after a break including scheduled breaks, holidays, weekends, or hybrid learning, or for a new student, symptoms must be screened for the past three days 72 hours):

- o Fever of 100.4°F or higher or a sense of having a fever
- o Cough
- o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o Sore throat
- o Chills
- o New loss of taste or smell

- o Muscle or body aches
- o Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- o Congestion/running nose – not related to seasonal allergies
- o Unusual fatigue

• Does anyone in your household have any of the above symptoms, currently or in the past 24 hours?

• Has your student been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?

• Has your student received any medication to reduce a fever before coming to school?

If the answer to any of these questions is Yes, the child will not be admitted to school and will be asked to self-isolate at home. See the section on “Returning to School After Having Suspected Signs of COVID-19”

In the classroom the teacher will also take the students temperature and will verbally confirm with the child that they do not have any suspected signs 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:

• At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery – defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like cough and shortness of breath;

AND

• At least 10 days have passed since signs first showed up.

OR

• It has been at least three days (72 hours) since recovery AND a health care provider has certified that the student does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19. If a person believes they have had close contact to someone with 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 child care, school, or public places for 14 days.

- If a child is self-isolating because of symptoms, we ask that they get tested as soon as possible so that we can notify anyone they have been in contact with if they have positive 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.

- 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.

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/workgroups/Reopening%20Washington%20Schools%202020%20Planning%20Guide.pdf>

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 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.

Teachers will have designated "Clean" and "Used" material tubs that will be cleaned on a daily basis.

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.

We are converting our outdoor pavilion into an outdoor classroom to be used by all classes K-5.

We are providing large 800 sq ft tents to be used by all classes to maximize outdoor time throughout the day.

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 with the exception of the specialist classroom. The only shared spaces will be our outdoor classroom and 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