

## **GRAND CANYON SCHOOL DISTRICT #4**

**2022-2023 school year**

### **COVID-19 Precautions and Procedures:**

The Grand Canyon Unified School District is bound by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and will honor the privacy of impacted individuals. Communications and notifications pertaining to a positive case will follow the direction of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Coconino Health and Human Services Department.

Isolation and quarantine authority are delegated to the Coconino County Health and Human Services (CCHS) and outlined in Arizona Revised Statutes and Arizona Administrative code.

The Grand Canyon Unified School District coordinates with officials at Coconino County Health and Human Services (CCHS) and GCNP United States Public Health Service and follows updated COVID-19 guidance.

### **COVID-19 precautions and preventing the spread of illness in the schools:**

Staff and students are responsible for monitoring their health daily. Individuals should not enter school buildings if not feeling well, having COVID-19 like symptoms, or having been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. In the event that a staff member or student needs assistance from the school health aide or office personnel, health screenings should be conducted respectfully and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.

**At Home:** This is the first point on the screening continuum. Students and staff must not come to school if exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Students should not attend school if they or their caregiver identifies new development of any of the symptoms above.

If a student has a chronic condition such as allergies or asthma, or other chronic condition that can cause the above symptoms on a regular basis, parents will need to provide documentation from a

healthcare provider to the school health aide and communicate this with the transportation department.

**For GCUSD staff members: Illness symptoms and or a positive COVID-19 test:**

- If an employee develops illness symptoms at work, the employee should separate from other students, staff, or visitors.
- The employee can receive a rapid antigen test from the school health aide and self-administer the test as needed as available. If used in agency (a test administered by the school attendance aide), rapid antigen tests the staff member is required to sign the test consent form.
- If a GCUSD staff member does not want to test at school, and the staff member is able to self-transport, the staff member should work with their site administrator or supervisor to ensure their work area is covered and head home. They should seek medical attention if needed and follow regular GCUSD illness guidance. COVID testing is recommended for individuals with illness symptoms prior to returning to work.
- Staff should stay home until their symptoms have improved regardless of COVID test results.
- If the employee is not able to safely self-transport, contact a family member, emergency contact or other method of transport to get the employee home, or to a healthcare provider.
- If the employee appears to be in medical distress, call 911.

**If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Please follow the recommendations below:**

1. If a person is symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19, stay home away from others under isolation precautions until:

- At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicines that reduce fevers;

**AND**

- Other symptoms have improved.

If all of the above are met individuals can return to work or school on Day 6 after symptoms first appeared.

\*\*\*Additionally, Individuals should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days after completion of isolation.

\*\*\*We encourage individuals to reach out to individuals the positive person had known close contact with to let them know about the possible COVID exposure.

2. If a person is asymptomatic (no symptoms) and tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:

- At least 5 days have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19.

If all of the above are met individuals can return to work or school on Day 6 after the test was collected.

\*\*\*Asymptomatic individuals should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days after completion of isolation.

\*\*\*We encourage individuals to reach out to individuals the positive person had known close contact with to let them know about the possible COVID exposure.

**For GCUSD families: Student illness symptoms and or a positive COVID-19 test:**

- If a student develops illness symptoms while at school, they should be sent to the school health aide or school office for a medical assessment.

- Staff can contact the school health aide for guidance if needed.

- The school health aide will perform an assessment of the student's symptoms and reach out to the parent/guardian to determine if the student has been exposed to COVID-19.

- If the student has the GCUSD BinaxNOW consent form completed and signed the nurse can administer a rapid COVID-19 antigen test.

- GCUSD will have rapid COVID-19 self-testing kits available for families and staff to take home to rule out COVID that does not require a signed consent form.

- If a student is ill and symptomatic the school office will request that the student be picked up from school regardless of COVID-19 test results. Students that test negative for COVID-19 but have illness symptoms should stay home until they are feeling better, and their symptoms have improved. If they have a fever, they need to be fever free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication before returning to school.<sup>3</sup>

- If the student appears to be in medical distress, the school will call 911, and alert EMS if COVID is suspected. If a student tests positive for COVID-19. Please follow the recommendations below:

1. If a person is symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19, stay home away from others under isolation precautions until:

- At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; AND

- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; AND

- Other symptoms have improved. If all of the above are met individuals can return to school on Day 6 after symptoms first appeared.

\*\*Additionally, Individuals should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days after completion of isolation.

\*\*\*We encourage individuals to reach out to individuals the positive person had known close contact with to let them know about the possible COVID exposure.

2. If a person is asymptomatic (no symptoms) and tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen testing, stay home away from others or under isolation precautions until:

- o At least 5 days have passed since specimen collection of the first positive COVID-19 PCR/antigen testing while asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, follow guidance for symptomatic and tested positive for COVID-19.

If all of the above are met individuals can return to school on Day 6 after the test was collected.

\*\*\*Asymptomatic individuals should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days after completion of isolation.

\*\*\*We encourage individuals to reach out to individuals the positive person had known close contact with to let them know about the possible COVID exposure.

**Ways to help mitigate spread of COVID and other germs in the schools:**

- School staff can run the portable hydroxyl air purifier machine once the symptomatic or positive individual leaves the area.
- During that time, if feasible, open windows run classroom fans to increase air circulation.
- After the air purifier runs, when able, custodial services or school staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect all high touch surfaces in the area per CDC guidelines.

COVID-19 quarantine recommendations: If the individual:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and received a booster dose OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If they develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

If the individual: Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and is not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and is not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible. If they develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

\*\*\*K-12 Students with prior COVID-19 Infection (Within last 90 days) who are not fully vaccinated: No quarantine if the following criteria are met:

- Have a documented COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days, AND

- Remain symptom-free

If you or someone in your family has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19. Isolation and quarantine guidelines can be found in the updated ADHS Release from Isolation and Quarantine Guidance document [here](#)

**COVID Health Updates:** Coconino County Health and Human Services (CCHHS) will continue to release weekly COVID-19 Community Level reports. These reports can be found on the CCHHS COVID-19 Data Dashboard web page [here](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses metrics to determine COVID-19 Community Levels based on three pieces of data: new COVID-19 hospitalizations, hospital capacity, and new COVID-19 cases. Categories for COVID-19 Community Levels have changed to just three levels: Low (Green), Medium (Yellow), and High (Orange).

**COVID Preventive Safety Measures:** Social/Physical Distancing: protocols used to maintain social distance between individuals when possible.

- Class furniture can be spaced apart to maximize space between students.
- Modify learning stations and activities as applicable so there are fewer students per group. When possible, plan stations or activities that can provide opportunities for distance between students. Class groupings will not segregate students with disabilities from their non-disabled peers or change a student's special education placement.
- Encourage teachers to use technology to facilitate group work and group learning where appropriate for the age, subject, and capabilities of students.
- Limit the number of students in the restroom at one time, use physical markers, to maintain distance between individuals. Display posters reminding students of proper handwashing techniques and social/physical distancing while in the restroom.
- Physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, will be utilized to remind individuals to follow the recommended social/physical distancing practices at the school.

**Student Materials and shared objects:** When possible, students should have their own instructional materials to limit student sharing of items.<sup>5</sup>

Some strategies surrounding shared objects:

- Limit sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Students should wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after use of shared items.
- Staff are asked to please wipe down shared student items and high touch areas at the end of each school day to help reduce transmission of germs and keep classroom spaces clean.

**Hand Washing:** Students and staff should wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds at the times listed below. Hand washing signs should be posted near all restrooms. Hand sanitizer stations, with at least 60% alcohol, will also be available throughout the school sites. Individuals should clean their hands:

- Upon arrival at school (use hand sanitizer if there is no sink in the classroom).
- Before and after school breakfast.
- After being outside for physical activity.
- After using the restroom.
- Before and after lunch.
- Hand washing is recommended after sneezing, coughing, or blowing your nose.

**On the Bus:** Transportation Measures: If a student exhibits visible symptoms, including but not limited to, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, and/or vomiting, the following steps may be taken:

- If the parent is at the bus stop, the student will return to their parent.
- If the parent is not at the bus stop, the student will be situated so as to be socially distanced from other persons if possible.
- When the student arrives at their school, they will be brought to the health aide for further evaluation.

**Transportation Health Safety Measures:**

- Implement between-route cleaning practices.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus. It is recommended that students sanitize their hands upon entering the bus.
- Maintain maximum bus ventilation at all times, including open windows (weather permitting), and set ventilation to non-recirculating mode.
- Load buses from back to front at bus stops and unload front to back when at school (to minimize students passing by other students).

**10 Food Service Health Safety Measures:**

- MPR seating will be setup facing one direction, outside seating is also available weather permitting
- Each school will work to maintain social distancing when possible and prevent congregating to the best of their ability.
- Students should wash hands with soap and warm water, or use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available, prior to starting breakfast and lunch.
- Food service staff will be responsible for serving items on trays.
- Students are asked to not share/swap food items with one another.
- Schools may utilize staggered lunch schedules for certain classes and grades with adequate time for cleaning between lunch schedules.

**Face Coverings and COVID-19 Vaccines:** Individuals may choose to wear a face mask at any time and to their comfort level, and decisions to mask or not to mask should be supported and respected. School sites and school buses will have masks available for students and staff that would like to wear them. It is recommended that face masks be worn indoors when community COVID levels are in the High (Orange) level. Individuals with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask regardless of community level.

**At this time the Grand Canyon National Park public health emergency order requires face masks indoors in ALL Park Buildings and will be implemented until that order is rescinded.**

GCUSD recommends and highly encourages staff and eligible students to get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19.

**Cleaning Protocols:** At this time, baseline cleaning is happening daily at all school sites. In addition, fresh air inflow in all GCUSD HVAC systems have been increased within district buildings. In the event that students or staff test positive during a school day, the UVA/Hydroxyl/ Ionized Generator can be placed in classrooms or school areas.

**Baseline Cleaning:** Also known as daily cleaning; includes cleaning of non-porous surface areas (desks, tabletops, countertops, etc.), vacuuming, and taking out trash.

- Baseline cleaning products that could be used: Top Clean, Suprox, Windo-CLEAN, Z1.
- Baseline cleaning occurs daily. High touch: This is an area defined as a heavy traffic area and referenced as door handles, countertops, and other surfaces where continual daily use might occur from different individuals.
- High Touch and Disinfecting supplies that could be used: Re-Juv-Nal, QT Plus, QT3, Vindicator, PUTRABS, Non-Acid Restroom Disinfectant/Cleaner.
- This occurs as needed Ozone Generator:
- Each school site has one Ozone Generator that maintenance can use in the event that a student or staff member becomes sick or tests positive for COVID-19.
- The Ozone Generator machine will be run in the space that the positive person was residing in prior to any custodial staff member entering to perform additional covid cleaning practices.

Cleaning practices continued:

- Staff and students may be expected to clean and disinfect workspaces, communal areas/surfaces, and materials when the need arises. Staff are expected to keep their workspaces clean and tidy.
- Caution: The overuse of cleaning solutions can result in a build-up of residues on surfaces which can potentially be an irritant to individuals. Please use caution when cleaning areas in your workspaces.

**Air Quality:** GCUSD maintenance staff will continue to implement strategies to increase ventilation and air flow in school buildings. These strategies include filter management and maintenance, opening windows, and using fans to circulate air.

**Visitors:** We ask that visitors monitor themselves for symptoms prior to entering school buildings. If you or anyone you are with is not feeling well, please do not come into the 7 school buildings but instead call the front office for assistance. All visitors may utilize temperature screeners when they arrive. Visitors are required to complete the building sign-in sheet and use a visitor badge while in the buildings.

**Quarantining Classes or Closing Buildings:** An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, i.e.. do not share a household and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard investigation or contact tracing. The decision to quarantine a class, close a

portion of the school, or close the school/district entirely is made in close coordination with the local health department.

**School Events and Field Trips:** All school sponsored events are asked to follow outlined mitigation strategies. All requests for field trips must have prior approval from school administrators. Schools may host virtual events and reconfigure parent-teacher conferences using videoconferencing or phone.

**Athletics and After School Activities:** Updated CDC and health department guidance and Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) recommendations will be followed for associated athletic sports and activities. All requests for after school activities and clubs must have prior approval from school administrators. Mitigation strategies and the health and safety of participants must be addressed in all plans.