

Grace Lutheran School

Plans for the 2021-22 School Year:

Important updates effective November 12, 2021

FAQ

Q: Should my child get vaccinated?

A: YES! The vaccine helps prevent kids from getting COVID-19. While COVID-19 can be milder in kids than in adults, some kids will become very sick and require hospitalization. Kids can also have post-COVID complications or long-lasting symptoms. By getting vaccinated, kids are less likely to get sick, allowing them to stay in school and participate in the things they enjoy. The vaccine also helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine can protect kids and others around them.

Cook County Department of Public Health website

Q: Should I notify the school office once my child is fully vaccinated?

A: Yes, we ask that you send the school office proof of vaccination. This will allow us to make more informed decisions regarding quarantine. If the percentage of students vaccinated is high, we may also be able to lift some current restrictions beginning in January.

Q: What should I do if my student is showing any symptoms of COVID-19?

A: Whether your student is vaccinated or not, that student should stay home if showing symptoms. Report the absence to the school, and contact your doctor or take your child for a COVID-19 test.

Q: If a member of my family is showing symptoms, do their siblings need to stay home from school?

A: It depends.

- If the student showing symptoms has been exposed to a known or probable case within the last 14 days and then becomes symptomatic, all unvaccinated siblings should also stay home.
- If there are no known exposures, then unvaccinated siblings who are not symptomatic may continue to attend school.

Q: If a member of my family tests positive, do my students need to stay home from school?

A: Again, it depends.

- If a sibling is unvaccinated, they must quarantine if a household member tests positive.
- If a sibling is vaccinated, they may continue to come to school unless they become symptomatic. They are to be PCR tested 5-7 days after the household member became symptomatic.

Q: If my child(ren) are vaccinated, do they need to quarantine if they are determined to be a close contact?

A: No. CDC guidelines state that individuals who are vaccinated do not need to quarantine, even if considered a close contact. However, parents should monitor their children for symptoms for 14 days and keep them home if any symptoms develop. CDC guidance states that fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are to be tested 5-7 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. (Updated 10/22/21) This should be a PCR test. The local health department may provide different guidance in an outbreak situation.

Q: When is a Rapid test sufficient, and when must it be a PCR test?

A: If an individual is showing symptoms of COVID-19, a Rapid test is sufficient. Any time an individual must test while asymptomatic, the PCR test is required.

Q: May we travel out of state without having to quarantine upon our return?

A: Yes. The Cook County Department of Public Health has recently changed their guidance for school aged children. It states on their website that "School-aged children do NOT have to quarantine after returning from domestic travel. They should continue to attend school in-person. However, they should get PCR tested 3-5 days after returning from their trip and should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days."

Q: May we travel internationally without having to quarantine upon our return?

A: CDC guidance states that only vaccinated individuals may travel internationally. Upon return, get tested with a PCR test 3-5 days after travel. Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days. Isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

Q: Will there be a restriction on the number of fans attending Grace School basketball games?

A: No, we will no longer restrict attendance to two adults per athlete.