

Grace Lutheran School

Plans for the 2022-23 School Year:

Important updates effective August 19, 2022

FAQ

Q: What is the current list of symptoms for COVID-19?

A: Fever (100.4 F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe persistent headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, and new loss of sense of taste or smell.

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 take a COVID test. The test may be an at-home test.

If not tested, a symptomatic individual must isolate for at least 5 days.

Q: If my child shows signs of COVID-19, do all siblings need to be sent home?

A: No.

Q: What is the new isolation policy if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

A: All people who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 5 days.

- For those who can mask upon return, isolate for at least 5 calendar days from onset of symptoms. May return to school after five calendar days if 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication), diarrhea and vomiting ceased for 24 hours AND improvement of symptoms AND consistent masking upon return through day 10. If unable to mask, isolate for 10 days.

Q: How do we interpret the phrase “improvement of symptoms”?

A: No new symptoms on Day 5. No worsening symptoms on Day 5. No vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours. No consistent coughing or sneezing which increase the risk of transmission. If any of these scenarios are present, the person should continue to stay home and isolate.

Q: What if I have been a close contact to someone with COVID-19?

A: The CDC no longer recommends quarantine for close contacts (regardless of vaccination status), but individuals must:

- Test on Day 6
 - If negative, continue to attend school
 - If positive, isolate immediately and follow protocols for a positive test.
- If at any time an individual becomes symptomatic, they must isolate immediately and test.

Q: Can I use an at-home test?

A: Yes. At-home tests are sufficient. There is no need to follow-up with a PCR test. Per CDC guidance, a negative PCR test will not override a positive at-home test.

Q: What is meant by the term “isolation”?

A: Isolation is when you have been diagnosed with COVID and need to stay away from individuals, even family members. This is best done by spending most time in a bedroom, and masking within the home any time you are around others.

Q: Do I need a negative test in order to return to school after having COVID?

A: No, you only need to fulfill the isolation guidelines. Once you have tested positive, a negative test does not impact isolation time in any way.

Q: Are there any restrictions if someone returns to school after only 5 days of isolation?

A: Yes. During days 6-10, the person must

- 1) wear a mask indoors at all times when not eating.
- 2) be 6 ft away from others when eating indoors.

Q: Should my child get vaccinated?

A: YES! According to the CDC and IDPH, vaccination is safe and effective at preventing severe illness from COVID-19. 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.

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 helps us make decisions in the event an outbreak occurs.

Other Items

Q: Will students in Grades 5-8 change into PE clothes this year?

A: Yes, we will return to students in Grades 5-8 using the locker rooms to change for PE.

Q: How will chapel work?

A: We plan to once again have Grades 1-8 together in the sanctuary, and Grades PK-SK together in Fellowship Hall for weekly chapel. We will also return to having chapel buddies.

On special occasions we will celebrate Holy Communion during chapel. Any student who participates in Communion in their home congregation is welcome to commune at Grace during chapel. Anyone who does not participate in Communion in their home congregation should cross their arms over their chest and pastor will give them a blessing.

Q: Will student desks be 3-6 feet apart?

A: Not necessarily. Teachers may choose to have desks pushed together for collaborative work or have students sit together on a carpet.

Q: Will students use drinking fountains?

A: Students will have access to drinking fountains. We also have 5 bottle filling stations in the school. We recommend your child have a water bottle at school that they can fill when necessary.

Q: How will Parent-Teacher conferences and Curriculum Night work?

A: Parent-Teacher Conferences and Curriculum Night will be in-person at school this year.

Q: Will there be GPO Events at Grace this year?

A: Yes.

Q: Will there be restrictions on attendance at athletic events?

A: No