

GPS Pandemic Response Plan

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 2020–21 school year that will guide our decisions regarding the reopening 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

Our hope was to start the 2020-21 school year with on-campus learning if possible. County regulations have required to instead begin the year with distance learning for grades K-8. County regulations have allowed Early Childhood classes to be held on-campus from opening day. Safeguarding the health of our community members is our top priority, and we are prepared to switch to distance learning for Early Childhood if public health guidelines require us to do so.

On-Campus Learning

We are excited to welcome students back to **GPS** for on-campus learning when County regulations allow, and we will offer a full-day schedule that includes early morning drop-off, Specialists classes, and Extended Day Programs. **GPS's** physical and human resources enable us to provide an at-school, in-person education under new health and safety guidelines. Some program modifications that you may see will include: smaller class sizes; limiting student travel during the day; a new daily schedule with hand-washing times built in; no large group meetings and activities; no off-campus travel; designated spaces for each class group for lunch and recess.

Hybrid Program

For those students who cannot attend in-person classes, we will offer an option of attending classes remotely through live streaming. Students can watch the classes from a distance, participate in discussions, and do all the classwork assigned by their teachers. Arrangements for this will be by request.

Distance Learning if Campus is Closed

We learned a lot through our distance learning experience in the spring and fall, and if we are required to continue 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—including Google Educational Tools, IXL, and SeeSaw—for learning, engagement, and assessment.

Mitigation Strategies

We will implement basic infection prevention measures, including the promotion of handwashing and respiratory etiquette and the use of face coverings and physical distancing. 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.

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 the 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, 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. While not a substitute for physical distancing, 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.

Exceptions may be made with consideration for: medical reasons; age; to accommodate eating and drinking; during outdoor and physical activities, including P.E.; and instructional time when physical distancing can be maintained and additional preventative measures are in place.

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

Cleaning and Disinfecting

GPS has implemented updated cleaning and disinfecting practices. This includes routine cleaning and disinfecting throughout the campus. We will administer frequent cleaning and disinfecting 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.

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.

Physical Distancing, Student Cohorts, and Group Gatherings

All individuals at the School will maintain a safe physical distance of six feet as feasible. The School will maintain cohorts of students and teachers to minimize crossover among children and adults within the School. We will minimize student travel throughout the campus when feasible, including Specialist teachers (excluding P.E.) traveling to classrooms to facilitate learning. In addition, teachers will take advantage of **GPS's** outdoor spaces when possible.

Shared Items

Teachers will limit the sharing of classroom materials and workspaces between students and will sanitize items as needed. Only items that can be easily disinfected 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 or faucets in classrooms. 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 restricted.

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 starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.”

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 illness shall not be permitted back in school again until they have:

- Been fever and fever medication free for at least 72 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.

Anyone who has had close contact with a person who has COVID-19 shall not be permitted back in school until 14 days after last exposure. This person should check temperature twice daily, be observant for any onset of symptoms, and obtain a COVID-19 test. A negative test result does not shorten the 14-day quarantine. 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.

Extended Programs and Childcare

We will continue to offer Extended Day Programs and will maintain the guidelines in this PRP, including physical distancing.

Training and Preparedness

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

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
- Use and cleaning of face coverings
- Screening practices
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification

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