

Updated Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of updated frequently asked questions.

With the recent MI Supreme Court ruling, how will GRPS follow recommendations for PPE, testing, quarantine, cleaning and distancing during Hybrid Learning?
**Letter from Dr. Roby on 10/06 states, "that all protocols remain in place until further notice."*

- A. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued an emergency order shortly after the MI Supreme Court ruling effectively reinstating the Executive Orders health and safety protocols. The state Legislature and Governor codified the distance learning plan requirements so that is state law.

Mask Protocol

Who is responsible for enforcing this with both staff and students?

- A. School-based administration, teachers, and support staff.

What happens with non-compliance?

- A. We will follow the uniform discipline code as outlined in board policy and the student policy handbook. Principals will review students with repeated violations to determine if the hybrid in-person model is appropriate or if the student should be placed in 100% virtual.

Can we do away with uniform requirements/enforcement (at the very least during hybrid in-person)?

- A. This would require a change in Board of Education policy.

Safe Entry/Health Screening Protocol

Will staff and students be required to take a daily health/symptom self-assessment - online or at the door?

- A. Staff are expected to submit a daily health assessment. We have decided to provide families with weekly reminders of when to keep their students home from school. They will receive the attached message via text, email, and robocall every Sunday and Wednesday. We will also post to social media and the website.

Our health services leadership consulted with neighboring school districts and health professionals in our community in making the decision to send regular reminders to parents and guardians, instead of a daily health screening tool. Requiring parents/guardians to complete a daily symptom screener would then require that our building leaders monitor students upon entry to the building to determine who completed the screener, and who did not. We began to have a lot of concerns as we thought through the logistics of this.

Students with symptoms and whose parents/guardians report those symptoms on the screening tool are the students who would be kept home due to those symptoms regardless of their responsibility to complete a screening tool.

For those who did not complete the screening tool, there may be several reasons:

1. The student is symptom-free, and the family forgot to complete it.
2. The student has symptoms and the family does not feel they can keep the child home in which case they may not have reported their student's symptoms if they had completed the tool.
3. The family does not have access to technology to complete a digital screening tool.

For this group of students, we wanted to focus the efforts of our health services staff on identifying students who present to school with symptoms, working with those families to isolate those students, and getting them home, rather than leaving the health office closed while we track down all the students whose families did not complete the screener that morning. Additionally, depending on the number of students who did not complete the screener on a given day, we could be causing a congregation of students waiting to complete the screener with a staff member. We know that maintaining 6 feet of social distance and limiting interactions to less than 15 minutes are the best ways to limit the spread of the virus and gathering students who need to complete a screening tool does not support those efforts.

Our families will be receiving weekly notifications via text, email, and robocall that will remind them of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 and to keep their students home if they have symptoms or have been exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus.

Each of our schools has access to a school nurse, and most of our schools have a school health aide. Additionally, three of our high schools have school-based health centers. All these health professionals are trained and ready to support our students, families, and staff as we navigate these uncertain times. Please connect with the health professionals in your building if you have any questions or concerns about your students.

How do we know the difference between a snuffle or cough and COVID?

- A. We are following health and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Kent County Health Department. We will be sending this information on a regular basis as a reminder to students and families.

Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Cough Fever (100.4 degrees or higher)
- Chills Achy muscles
- Trouble breathing Headache
- Runny nose Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Also keep your child home if they:

- Have had close contact or live with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- Live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 and is awaiting test results
- Or have traveled outside of the country in the last 14 days

If you believe your student's symptoms are related to a clear alternative diagnosis, please contact your school nurse before sending your child to school. You may be required to provide proof of this diagnosis.

If your child develops any of these symptoms during the school day, the school will isolate your child away from others and call you to arrange for pick up. If we are unable to reach you, we will call the emergency contacts listed in Synergy. **It is extremely important that you keep your contact information updated in Synergy.** We will not be able to send your student home on the bus if he/she has symptoms of COVID-19. There will be times when it is necessary for household members (e.g. siblings) to stay home as well.

COVID Testing Protocol

Should staff or students stay home for a cough, cold/flu symptoms out of caution?

- A. We are following health and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Kent County Health Department. We will be sending this information on a regular basis as a reminder to students and families.

Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Cough Fever (100.4 degrees or higher)
- Chills Achy muscles
- Trouble breathing Headache
- Runny nose Sore throat

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Will testing be required if the above symptoms are present?

- A. Based on the K-12 COVID-19 Symptom and Testing Protocol outlined in the Kent County Health Department's School and Childcare Teachers and Administrators COVID-19 Toolkit, if a student has symptoms associated with COVID-19 in children, a health care evaluation is needed.

Is testing required to go through the Health Department for tracking and contact tracing purposes?

- A. No. Based on the K-12 COVID-19 Symptom and Testing Protocol outlined in the Kent County Health Department's School and Childcare Teachers and Administrators COVID-19 Toolkit, contact tracing is the requirement of the school district/schools.

Quarantine Protocol

There is concern of having to pivot twice - or multiple times - (from virtual to hybrid then back to virtual) should individual cases or an outbreak occur (as it did at Franklin Campus where adults can more easily follow PPE protocol; as it did at Lowell).

What is the protocol if 1 teacher becomes ill? 5 teachers? More?

- A. We will follow the guidance and direction of the Kent County Health Department and will adjust our staffing and models accordingly. This will be done on a case by case basis.

Will teachers be able to teach from home if they have to quarantine and how would that impact students in hybrid learning?

A. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Will subs be available?

A. Yes, if substitutes are available and sign up for the substitute position. Schools are planning for every possible scenario and will make adjustments in the event there is no substitute.

Same question for students: if it's 1, 3, 14? Is this automatic building closure?

A. No. It will be determined on a case by case basis based on guidance from the Kent County Health Department.

How would potential quarantine/isolation/building closure impact the IB program at City?

A. It should not impact IB based on the proposed model.

Is it potentially possible that in-person learners would have to switch back and forth between hybrid and virtual every time there are positive cases?

A. No, not every time there are positive cases. However, depending on the situation, there may very well be incidents where in-person learning would have to switch back to virtual on either a temporary or possibly a more prolonged basis.

Cleaning Protocol

What's the difference between deep cleaning and regular, daily cleaning?

A. Deep cleaning is cleaning first with soap and water and then cleaning again with disinfectant. Daily cleaning is disinfecting.

Is deep cleaning to be done by regular GRPS custodial staff, the contract company or a specialty service?

A. Deep cleaning will be done by both GRPS custodial staff and contracted support. We are hiring more custodians and have expanded service agreements in place with contacted entities.

Deep cleaning is currently scheduled for Wednesdays, between

cohorts. What about weekend cleaning - is that "deep" as well?

- A. Yes, deep cleaning will occur after school is done on Friday and over the weekend.

What about the rest of the days and between class periods?

- A. Teachers will have designated time during class when students are working independently for cleaning and sanitizing desks and common areas. Additional daily cleaning will be done by custodial staff.

Will teachers or custodial staff be required to clean between classes?

- A. Teachers will have designated time during class when student are working independently for cleaning and sanitizing desks and common areas. Teachers are expected to be monitoring hallways in between classes. Regularly daily cleaning will not happen in between classes unless it is necessary.

If teachers are required to clean between classes, who is going to watch students in the hallway for social distancing?

- A. Class periods will be a few minutes shorter to allow teachers time to clean desks and common areas. During this time, students will be working on independent students. Passing time will not be impacted by cleaning schedules.

Is additional staff required to meet the above cleaning guidelines?

- A. Yes, we are working to hire GRPS staff and expanding the services provided by private contractors.

Have all staff been trained/have protocols for in between class times and additional "deep" clean?

- A. Yes, all staff will be trained prior to October 26.

Distancing Protocol

Cafeteria for breakfast and lunch

How will breakfast work? Kids come early to eat - who will facilitate?

- A. It will be on a school by school basis based on enrollment, capacity, and

appropriate space. Some school meals may continue to be served in the designated gymnasiums or cafeterias with all social distancing and health safety protocols. However, meals for students in-person may also be a sack breakfast or lunch.

Who will monitor kids for safe distance during lunch? (Teachers are supposed to be duty free.)

A. School leaders and support staff including security officers.

How many students per classroom?

A. Approximately 50% of normal class size.

Will there be assigned hall monitors during passing time and dismissal to help students maintain distancing?

A. No, teachers will still have passing time responsibilities. School leaders, public safety, and other support staff may also assist with hall monitoring.

Instructional Overview

Will students' hybrid or virtual choice have any impact on what teacher they have?

A. Yes. With more than 70% choosing hybrid in-person, the majority of those classrooms will likely be staffed with the current staff. However, we are doing our best to limit the number of master schedule adjustments and maintain as much consistency in teaching staff as possible. This is also why we are exploring simultaneous hybrid in-person and virtual using state of the art classroom technology.

How will the hybrid in-person model look different than pre-COVID in-person learning? absent of small group work?

A. The goal is to keep teaching and learning as similar to pre-COVID as possible.

No sharing of any materials such as handouts and nothing to turn in (in essence, keeping the virtual learning program in place while at school)?

A. Health experts have advised us that the latest data and research suggests getting COVID from surfaces is unlikely. However, out of an abundance of caution, we will be asking students not to share materials and temporarily closing common areas where students use the same materials such as the

media centers.

Will there be an extra person available to monitor the classroom if the teacher is not present?

- A. We will do our best to appropriately staff classrooms in the event the teacher is not present or additional support staff is needed.

Will each model offer the same amount of instructional time?

- A. Yes.

Hybrid x 2 six hour days = 12 hours?

- A. Correct 6 hours per day.

Will the 4 hour screen limit be observed?

- A. Screen time may be reduced but course content will not be reduced.

Virtual x 4 four hour days = 16 hours?

- A. Again, screen time requirements will be less than in-person time, but course expectations will remain the same.

Will virtual have to drop to three days to make it equal time to in-person?

- A. No.

How will the October 27 SAT be administered to seniors who have chosen virtual learning?

- A. All seniors are expected to be in-person on October 27. All 9th-11th grade high school students, 7-8th grade City High Middle students, and 6-8th grade CA Frost Middle High, GR Montessori Middle High, and University Prep Academy students will be virtual that day and none of the student in Cohort A will be in-person.

GPA, IB and DP Questions

Will students' hybrid or virtual choice have any impact on GPA?

- A. No.

Will all DP classes still be weighted no matter how they are being offered?

A. Yes.

Will students' hybrid or virtual choice have any impact on finishing the DP for the Class of 2021?

A. No.

Will the IB org make any testing accommodations for the Class of 2021 as they did for the Class of 2020?

A. To be determined.

Teachers

Were teachers given the same preference survey?

A. Teachers have been asked if they would be willing to volunteer if needed, however, the district will make placement decisions based on a variety of factors, including those who must teach virtually for specific reasons, Will the results be published for parents to see?

B. No, this is private information.

Will their preferences be honored?

A. We cannot guarantee that preferences will be honored, as we must comply with legal and contractual requirements before we can consider preferences.

If an IB certified teacher becomes ill and needs to be replaced, who can do it - *especially for DP, where there is only one DP teacher for some subjects to begin with?*

A. The school principal will make scheduling modifications to accommodate the students in question.

Is their position safe (assuming they would have to go on FMLA for illness)?

A. Employees on FMLA are guaranteed a position, but not necessarily the same position. However, we make every effort to place the employee in the same position if it remains available.

Will students' hybrid or virtual choice have any impact on finishing the DP for the Class of 2021?

B. No.

Will the IB org make any testing accommodations for the Class of 2021 as they did for the Class of 2020?

B. To be determined.

Are all the teachers at City IB Certified?

A. Yes.

Are there available subs who are IB certified or that can replace a DP teacher?

A. There are limited to no subs who are IB certified.

Non-Instructional Time at School

Will there still be meal pick up at schools?

A. Yes. There will be grab and go meal sites at every GRPS school from noon to 1:00pm daily. In-person student meals will be separate and handled within the school building.

How will distancing be handled if students are doing the pickup at dismissal

A. Students are to wear masks and stay 6' apart.

Will clubs, after school activities, and work zone now be allowed?

A. At this time, only athletics and LOOP after school programming are allowed.

How will those be monitored?

A. Assigned staff will be trained and expected to monitor all activities.

Transportation

Are high school kids that rely on public transportation still going to have to take public transportation or will a new bussing system come into play?

A. Yes, they are expected to take public transportation.

Will middle school kids have multiple busses available to keep space between passengers?

- A. Since we have adopted the hybrid model, there will be approximately 50% fewer students relying on transportation, therefore there should not need to be additional buses.

Will there be an extra DEAN or GRPS staff on each bus to assist with distancing and PPE protocol?

- A. No. The Dean bus drivers are trained and expected to enforce COVID expectations.

Equity

What will the impact on gaps - racial, socio economic, academic achievement/student performance - for both continued virtual learning or hybrid in-person learning be?

- A. Students are currently being assessed. If there are students with significant gaps in learning, we will be providing additional help and support.

Are we widening the gap between students or closing it?

- A. "We" are not widening the gap, COVID though is contributing to potential academic learning loss not unlike the "summer slide" or summer learning loss that research has proven disproportionately impacts high poverty, high needs students. That is why we will need to assess students to determine where they are at and how they may be impacted from an academic standpoint. Then we can implement differentiated instruction and additional academic supports.

Can the preference survey responses and NON-responses be sorted by the above to see?

- A. No. We are still in the process of conducting assessments. We review the results and assess our action steps after that.

COVID Numbers

What are the *accurate COVID numbers in our district and surrounding districts?*

- A. The district COVID numbers are posted daily to our website at www.grps.org/coronavirus. We are also required to post a notification to school website's within 24 hours of a positive case or close contact case. Our goal is to have that posting and a robocall, text, email, and social media sent within 2 hours of first being notified or by the end of the day (but no later than 24 hours after notification).

Several people have personally heard of cases in neighboring districts from parents and teachers in those areas but have not necessarily seen them reported in the news or by GRPS.

A. We will be posting to school website and sending notification to all students, parents, and staff via email, robocall, text message, and social media.

B. City parent provided a website that's tracking education related outbreaks, but a school only shows up on the list if there is an active case, not if the cases have been resolved.

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173_102480---,00.html?bc_lid=lwAR17d4gZzQZlrRnyK2WFJluxMx4ycDC3Sk0Y7sZvkV-a0t0MI1BhD1zgMBc

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Surveys/Commitments

Are you going to publish each school's preference survey results?

A. Yes. They are posted to our website.

Are the results at City reflective of the district as a whole?

A. They are similar. City had a 20% higher response rate and 58% requested hybrid-in vs the district requested rate of 52%.

Why do the commitment forms have to be sent to the student emails?

A. This is because the student email is specifically identified to a student that is directly linked/connected to our system.

Is a 65% return rate better than sending it directly to parents?

A. Many parents chose simply not to fill it out because they were

informed that if they did not, it would automatically place their student in hybrid in-person which may have been their preference.

Is it ethical (or legal) to send a decision-making form to kids who will fill it out themselves without parental consent?

- A. Yes, it is. That is also why we sent a direct mail communication to parents with the commitment and provided opportunity for parents to change the commitment.