

Global Educational Excellence

*Transforming educational communities by fostering academic excellence,
positive character and appreciation of cultures.*



GEE SY 2021-2022

Preparedness and Response Plan

We encourage vaccination!

Table of Contents

Introduction and Overview

Mission

Personal Protective Equipment

Spacing, Movement, Ventilation and Access

Screening Students and Staff

Testing & Quarantine

International Travel

Communication

Food Service

Athletics

Cleaning

Transportation

Circumstances Require Shift to Online eLearning

Hybrid Teaching & Learning

100% Online Teaching & Learning

Introduction and Overview

Mission

“To promote lifelong learning by nurturing academic excellence, positive character and an appreciation of cultures.”

The Academy recognizes that students benefit from in-person learning, and a safe return to 100% in-person instruction to start this 2021-2022 is our priority.

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Until which time all school stakeholders have been vaccinated, or as the Michigan Department of Education, medical experts, executive orders from the Governor and/or local health departments advise, this GEE 21-22 SY Preparedness and Response Plan will be followed.

The Academy will maintain as their first priority, the safety and health of its students, parents, teachers and staff.

Although the Academy is returning to 100% in-person instruction Fall 2021, there may be the need throughout the 2021-2022 school year to return periodically to online instruction. We are prepared for both scenarios. The Academy is prepared to make the seamless transition back to blended learning should circumstances dictate, with significant online access facilitated by the Academy’s technology infrastructure, one-to-one student access to laptops and internet connectivity.

Personal Protective Equipment

The Academy will ensure that:

- Masking within the schoolhouse is highly recommended, but not required. Masking policy is an individual academy decision.
- Masking while riding the school bus is highly recommended, but not required. Masking policy is an individual academy decision.

The Academy will:

- Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Educate staff and students on how to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately using proper hand hygiene techniques.
- Systematically and frequently check and refill soap and hand sanitizers.
- Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
- Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between use, or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use.

- Procure portable handwashing and/or hand sanitizing stations to set up throughout school buildings.

Spacing, Movement, Ventilation and Access

The Academy will ensure that:

- Desks will be spaced three feet apart in classrooms. Class sizes will be kept to the level afforded by necessary spacing requirements.
- In classrooms where space permits and where large tables are utilized, students will be spaced as far apart as feasible.
- Family members or other guests are not allowed in the school building except under extenuating circumstances determined by Academy officials and by appointment only.
- Adult guests entering the building will be screened for symptoms, wear a facial covering, and wash/sanitize hands prior to entering. Strict records, including date and time, will be kept of non-school employees or other visitors entering and exiting the building.
- If a classroom has windows that can open, they will be open as much as possible, weather permitting.
- Classroom doors will remain open. Child-safe fans will be used as necessary.

Screening Students and Staff

- The Academy will cooperate with the local public health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- The Academy will identify and designate a quarantine area and a staff person to care for students who become ill at school.
- Students who become ill with symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in an identified quarantine area with a surgical mask in place until they can be picked up. Identified school staff caring for these children will wear a surgical mask, with the exception of students with special needs requiring aerosolized procedures in which an N95 mask is required.
- Symptomatic students and staff sent home from school will be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered and are asymptomatic.
- Staff will conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check, prior to coming to work. If they exhibit any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they will stay home.
- Families are encouraged to check their child's temperature at home every morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal scanners; students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
- Students and staff are temperature checked upon arrival at school. If temperature reaches or exceeds 100.4, the individual is sent home or goes to the quarantine room until they are picked up.

Testing & Quarantine

Quarantine and isolation are determined by the local health department and are used as important tools to prevent the spread of disease.

- You [isolate](#) when you are already infected with COVID-19 and have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Isolation is used to separate people who are infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.
- You [quarantine](#) when you might have been exposed to COVID-19. This is because you might become infected with COVID-19 and could spread COVID-19 to others.

Overview of COVID-19 Isolation Guidance for K-12 Schools

- **Students, teachers & staff who test positive for COVID-19 and/or display [COVID-19 symptoms](#) should isolate regardless of vaccination status:**
 - If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms from day of exposure through day 10 of isolation; and
 - Isolate at home for 5 days (day “0” is day symptoms begin or day test was taken for students, teachers & staff who do not have symptoms); and
 - If symptoms have improved or you continue to have no symptoms, return to school, while wearing a [well-fitted mask](#), for days 6 -10; or
 - Stay home for 10 days if unwilling/unable to wear a mask.

If you have a fever, stay home until you are fever free for a period of 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Overview of COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance for K-12 Schools

- **[Close contacts](#) of a COVID-19 case do not need to quarantine at home if they:**
 - Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days; and/or
 - Are up to date on [all recommended COVID-19 vaccines](#) for which they are eligible

These contacts should still monitor their symptoms and “Mask to Stay” for 10 days from the date of last exposure.

- **Close contacts of a COVID-19 case who do not meet the criteria above need to quarantine or may [test to stay](#) and/or mask to stay.** Exposed individuals may:
 - Home quarantine for days 1-5, if feasible test on day 5, AND “Mask to Stay” for days 6-10; or
 - “Test to Stay” for days 1-6 AND “Mask to Stay” for days 1-10; or
 - Home quarantine for days 1-10 if unable/unwilling to mask

Students, teachers & staff should monitor for symptoms throughout quarantine period (days 1 through 10). Day “0” is day of last close contact with any COVID-19 positive student, teacher or staff. If symptoms develop, get tested.

Symptom Monitoring

During days 0-10 following exposure:

- Watch for symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- If symptoms develop, get tested immediately and isolate until receiving test results. If test is positive, then follow [isolation](#) recommendations.
- If symptoms do not develop, get tested at least five days after last exposed.
- If possible, stay away from others in the home, especially people who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

For the full 10 days after last exposure, avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings

Test to Stay: test every other day for 6 days following the exposure and consistent and correct use of a well-fitted mask.

Mask to Stay: is the consistent and correct use of a well-fitted mask when around others and in school and public settings.

School Quarantine Guidance

What to do when students or staff are exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting, **but do not have symptoms.**

Students and staff experiencing symptoms should not attend school activities.

MDHHS
Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

Students and staff should monitor for symptoms throughout quarantine period (days 1-10). If symptoms develop, test immediately. Day "0" is day of last close contact with a COVID-19 positive student, teacher or staff.

Up to Date on Vaccines No Need to Quarantine	Actions to Take
Students and staff without symptoms do not need to quarantine. They should monitor for symptoms and wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days.	Home quarantine for days 1-5 and test on day 5; and "Mask to Stay" for days 6-10.
Not Up to Date on Vaccines Need to Quarantine	OR
	"Test to Stay" for days 1-6 AND "Mask to Stay" for days 1-10.
	OR
	Home quarantine for days 1-10 if unable/unwilling to mask.

*Mask to Stay: The consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask when around others in school and public places
**Test to Stay: Test every other day for six days following the exposure and consistent and correct use of a mask

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend school and should isolate at home for five full days after symptom onset (or five days after the positive test if they do not have symptoms). They may return to school on day six if they have no symptoms and can wear a mask for five additional days.

MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.

International Travel

International travelers returning to school must be symptom free and must present evidence of a negative pre- or post-flight PCR result.

Communication

- In the event of a Covid case/close contact incident, the Local Health Department must be notified.
- All parents and staff will be notified via robocall and/or letter of Covid case/close contact incidents.
- Specific individuals identified as having been in close contact with a positive Covid case will receive a personal phone call from the Academy Office. If the individual is a student, the parent/guardian will receive the personal call from the Academy Office.
- Principals may include Covid updates during regularly scheduled Principal Coffees and weekly communications.

Food Service

- Meal times will be staggered to create seating arrangements with three feet of distance between students.
- Serving and cafeteria staff will use barrier protection including gloves, face shields and/or surgical masks. Students, teachers, and food service staff will wash hands before and after every meal.

Athletics

- The Academy will comply with all guidance published by Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

- Students, teachers, and staff must use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering. Every participant will confirm that they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to any event.
- All equipment will be disinfected before and after use.
- Inter-school competitions will be held provided that facial coverings are worn while in transit if school transportation is provided. Buses must be cleaned and disinfected before and after every use.
- Spectators will be allowed provided that facial coverings are used by observers and three feet of social distance can be maintained at all times. Attention must be given to entry and exit points to prevent crowding.
- Each participant must use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. There will be no sharing of equipment.
- Handshakes, fist bumps, and other unnecessary contact must not occur.

Cleaning

- Frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, will undergo cleaning at least every four hours with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hands- on classrooms must undergo cleaning after every class period with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Student desks must be wiped down with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution on a regular schedule.
- Playground structures must continue to undergo normal routine cleaning, but using an EPA-approved disinfectant is unnecessary.
- The Academy will ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.
- Staff must wear gloves, surgical mask and/or face shield when performing all cleaning activities.

Transportation

- Students and staff are required to use hand sanitizer before entering the bus. Hand sanitizer will be supplied on the bus.
- The bus driver, staff, and all students in grades preK-12 must wear facial coverings while on the bus.
- The Academy will clean and disinfect transportation vehicles before and after every transit route. Children must not be present when a vehicle is being cleaned.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle (e.g., surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles) prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes.
- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect equipment including items such as car seats, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools daily.
- If a student becomes sick during the day, they must not use group transportation to return home and must follow protocols outlined above. If a driver becomes sick during the day, they must follow protocols for sick staff outlined above and must not return to drive students.

- Weather permitting, doors and windows will remain open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out.
- Weather permitting, windows will be kept open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe.
- Seating charts will be maintained for attendance and contact tracing purposes.

Circumstances Require Shift to Online eLearning

In the event circumstances are such that returning to online learning is a necessity:

Hybrid Teaching & Learning

In the event a student is required to quarantine or isolate at home, that student will “live stream” into class.

100% Online Teaching & Learning

Circumstances requiring a return to 100% online teaching and learning places both students and teachers online.

Guidelines and Protocols for 100% online teaching and learning can be found in the [GEE SY 2021-2022 eLearning Handbook](#).