

“Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early and go to late rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sheep.”
- Psalm 127:1-2

GENESIS CLASSICAL ACADEMY COVID-19 PROTOCOL

Priorities

- I. Health and safety of our students, faculty and their families.**
- II. Nurturing and developing each student’s spiritual maturity while delivering excellent academic programs.**
- III. Maintaining a full-time, five-day-a-week, campus-based program.**
- IV. Maintaining flexibility and support to our families to the greatest extent.**

Back to School Overview

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back to campus on September 8, 2020 for the first day of school! Orientation will be held on a come-and-go basis through the afternoon on September 3, 2020. There will be more details about orientation and our dedication/open house ceremony coming soon.

The Governor has issued two new Covid-19 emergency executive orders: Order 20-81 for businesses (including non-profits) and Order 20-82 for public schools. Private schools are not mentioned in either order, however, it is possible that GCA may be included under Order 20-81, because we are a non-profit and we employ people. Many private schools have determined that neither order is applicable, and that they are free to structure their reopening plan in any fashion. Because it is not completely clear, GCA will attempt to follow the essence of Order 20-81. Relevant sections are referenced in the attached document at the end of this protocol.

This document details the preemptive measures that GCA is taking to accomplish the priorities listed above. We look forward to welcoming your children to the least educationally-intrusive atmosphere while still being prudent about safety. We would remind our parents that GCA needs your cooperation to make this happen. Regular temperature checks before your student leaves the home each morning and ensuring that your child does not exhibit symptoms are essential in preventing the spread of Covid-19 and other sicknesses.

Community Health and Hygiene

I. Social Distancing

A. Within Classroom

1. GCA has maintained small class sizes to allow for space between desks and to provide greater individual attention to students.
2. While six feet of space is desirable, three feet of space from child-to-child seating is our goal with generous space between the teacher at the whiteboard and the students.
3. Teachers are encouraged to utilize our expansive outdoor campus for class time whenever possible.

B. New Carpool Guidelines

1. We are requiring all students to be dropped off and picked up outside. Parents may not enter the classroom for purposes of pick-up or drop off. Unfortunately, this includes the first day of school. (GCA loves our parents, and if a parent would need to visit a student, a call can be placed to the office ahead of time so arrangements may be made.)
2. The exception – Preschool and kindergarteners may be escorted to their classroom by a parent following the Governor's face covering requirements – for the first week of school only.

C. Lunch and Recess

1. Lunch and recess will be in smaller groups.
2. Lunch room supervisors will help students space out at the cafeteria tables.
3. Tables will be sanitized in between lunch periods

D. Group Activities

1. In-door activities that involve a three-grade span combination or larger will be reduced.
2. We will move events and activities outdoors when feasible and weather permits (e.g., student events like all-school chapel).

II. Face Covering

A. Students and Staff

1. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 20-81, GCA will use face shields as an alternative to masks for teachers and students in grades Kindergarten through High School.
2. Each child and staff member will be issued a face shield to be worn inside the school premises and on GCA-sponsored transportation. (Please refer to the regulations concerning masks and face shields when using public school transportation to get to GCA.)
3. Face coverings per GCA guidelines may be removed when:
 1. Working alone in an office, classroom, vehicle, cubicle or other space that is at least six feet from another individual.
 2. When engaged in physical activity (e.g., during recess or physical education) including sporting events where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult or impracticable.
 3. When eating or drinking.

4. During practices or performances involving singing, acting, public speaking or playing musical instruments that make wearing a face covering difficult or impracticable.
5. When communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication difficult with a face covering.
6. During activities where a face covering would get wet.
7. While receiving a service that would be difficult to perform with a face covering.

B. Exemptions:

1. Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability (including inability to breathe properly) that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. GCA will not require students, staff, or visitors to provide proof of a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability, or require an explanation for the nature of the condition.
2. Children who are five years old and under.

III. Hygiene

- A. Face Shields will be sanitized daily and not shared. Compromised or broken face masks will be replaced.
- B. Hand sanitizer is located in every classroom and throughout campus with built-in routines of sanitizing or washing hands with soap and water when re-entering classrooms and before eating snacks or lunch.
- C. GCA has hired full-time janitorial staff to assist in keeping the campus as safe as possible.

IV. “Reasonable Cause” for Temperature Check

- A. GCA will not conduct regular or routine forehead temperature checks on otherwise asymptomatic students. Instead, we will conduct a temperature check for the following reasons:
 1. Upon a student or staff member’s return from an absence due to illness;
 2. Anyone showing symptoms of being sick in the judgement of a GCA staff member; or
 3. Any student coming to the office for medicine for the alleviation of any symptom or ailment regardless of the likely cause of the symptom (e.g., seasonal allergies).
- B. All temperature checks will be conducted in the office or nurse’s station.
- C. Any student or staff member with a temperature of 100 degrees or more will be sent home.

V. On-site Custodial and Facility Maintenance

- A. GCA will have a custodian on-site who will clean throughout the day when not supervising students. High contact areas such as bathrooms, door handles, drinking fountains, etc. will be given routine attention. The custodian will also focus on cleaning and disinfecting classrooms outside of school hours to prepare them for re-entry the following day.
- B. Students will assist in daily cleaning and sanitizing of classrooms including wiping off desks, handles, and chairs.
- C. In addition to nightly cleaning, we will utilize our built-in breaks throughout the year for deep cleaning.

VI. Access to Campus

- A. GCA wishes to continue its welcoming spirit. Visitors, including parents, who enter our building will be asked to make an appointment, wear a face covering, and may be asked to complete a COVID symptom questionnaire.
- B. Whenever possible, deliveries will be made outside.
- C. We ask that parents remain in their vehicles during arrival and dismissal times.

VII. Academics

- A. GCA may at times discontinue an event or limit its coverage or attendance.
- B. GCA has no intention of eliminating any of our courses, however, the duration of the course or class may be shortened to allow for more sections of smaller groups.

COVID-19 Cases, Symptoms or Close Conduct

I. GCA will maintain continued review and response to evolving Executive orders and CDC guidelines.

II. Communication with staff and students will be ongoing with additional training as needed.

III. The *required* communication of any known cases will be made in keeping with HIPPA laws, with further notification as follows:

- A. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, GCA will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff.

IV. Response to Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19:

- A. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the entire infection period, and cannot return to campus until GCA screens the individual to determine whether the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - 1. In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - a. At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication);
 - b. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - c. At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - 2. In the case of an individual who has two or more symptoms that could be tested for COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
 - 3. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

- a. Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis; or
- b. Receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

B. Close Contact

1. This section refers to "close contact" with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is defined as:
 - a. Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a face shield).
2. If close contact occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious, the individual must remain home for a total of 14 calendar days from the time of close contact to ensure the individual does not have the virus.
3. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the **confirming lab test**.

C. Symptoms

1. Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
2. Loss of taste or smell
3. Cough
4. Difficulty breathing
5. Headache
6. Chills
7. Sore throat
8. Shaking or exaggerated shivering
9. Significant muscle pain or ach
10. Diarrhea

Individual Rights

- I. **If any protocol mentioned in this document is in violation of an individual's state or federal constitutional rights, individual constitutional rights are intended to prevail.**

More Information

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

[Minnesota Department of Health](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>

[Minnesota Independent School Forum](https://misf.org)

<https://misf.org>

[American Academy of Pediatrics \(Guidance for School Re-entry\)](https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/)

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The Governor of Minnesota, acting under his sole executive authority, has issued Emergency Executive Order 20-81, which all businesses (including non-profit entities) are required to comply with.

The Governor has ordered that “Minnesotans must wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings” as outlined in the Executive Order. We are told by the authorities that this has the “force and effect of law during a peacetime emergency”. As a result, you are hereby put on notice that the Governor is requiring workers, customers, and visitors to wear a face covering. Businesses are required to make a reasonable effort to enforce this order with respect to customers and visitors. Section 12 of the order provides more detailed information on what the Governor has ordered in preschool and kindergarten through grade 12 school purposes.

The order contains a number of general exemptions from the face covering rule that may be relevant to an individual person’s situation. Some of them are as follows:

- Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals who have a medical condition that compromises their ability to breathe, and individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. These individuals should consider using alternatives to face coverings, including clear face shields, and staying at home as much as possible. (EO 20-81, 8a)
- Children who are five years old and under. (EO 20-81, 8b)

The following special circumstances for preschool classes will be observed:

- To reduce the risk of exposure, child care settings should maintain consistent groups or cohorts of children and related workers and should take steps to avoid intermixing groups or cohorts of children and workers to the extent possible. (12a.iii)
- A child care setting may allow nonexempt staff and workers to remove face coverings or face shields when in an indoor classroom or care setting (including family child care and in-home care providers) that is confined to one group or cohort. Non-exempt workers and children are strongly encouraged to wear coverings or shields in these settings to the extent possible, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless wearing a covering or shield would interfere with child development. (12a.v)

The following special circumstances for Kindergarten through High School classes will be observed (12b):

- ii. Face shields may be used as an alternative to face coverings in the following situations:
 - A. For students who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, behavioral, or medical condition.
 - B. For teachers of all grades when a face covering would impede the educational process.
 - C. For staff providing direct support student services when a face covering would interfere with the services provided.
 - D. For students in kindergarten through grade 8 when wearing a face covering is otherwise problematic for the student.

- iii. Staff may remove face coverings when working alone, including when alone in an office, classroom, vehicle, cubicle with walls at least face level when social distancing is maintained, or other enclosed work area.
- iv. In addition, staff, students, and other persons present indoors in a school building or district office may temporarily remove face coverings in the following situations, provided that social distancing is maintained to the extent possible:
 - A. When engaged in physical activity (e.g., during recess or physical education) or sporting events where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult or impracticable.
 - B. When eating or drinking.
 - C. During practices or performances involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments that make wearing a face covering difficult or impracticable.
 - D. In response to requests to verify an identity for lawful purposes.
 - E. When communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a face covering difficult.
 - F. During activities, such as swimming or showering, where the face covering will get wet.
 - G. While receiving a service—including nursing, medical, or personal care services—that cannot be performed or would be difficult to perform when the individual receiving the service is wearing a face covering. Workers performing a service for an individual who is allowed to temporarily remove their face covering under this provision must comply with the face covering requirements in the applicable Industry Guidance, available at the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>).

Further details are available in the Governor’s Orders that are publicly available at https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-81%20Final_tcm1055-441107.pdf If you have any questions regarding these requirements please direct them to the Governor of Minnesota who is solely responsible for them being issued.

We will attempt to maintain social distancing wherever possible as a least intrusive method to reduce exposure. Face masks are also available upon request to facilitate what the Governor is ordering.

The Executive Order does state the following implementation points:

- Businesses may not require customers to provide proof of a medical condition mental health condition, or disability, or require customers to explain the nature of their conditions or disability. (15c)
- Nothing in this Executive Order requires businesses or their workers to enforce this requirement when it is unsafe to do so, or authorizes them to restrain, assault or physically remove workers or customers who refuse to comply with this Executive Order. (15e)
- Nothing in this Executive Order authorizes businesses or their workers to violate other laws, including anti-discrimination laws. (15f)
- Nothing in this Executive Order is intended to encourage or allow law enforcement to transgress individual constitutional rights. (20d)