

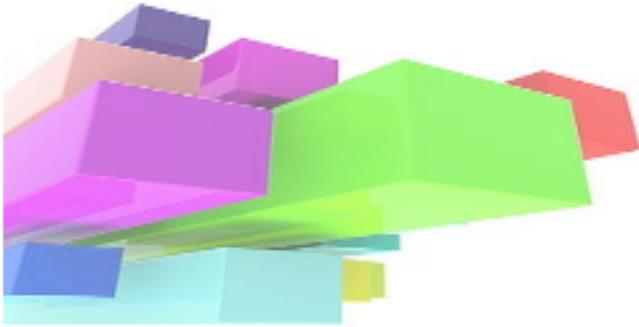


*Genesee  
Christian  
School*

*Safe School  
Plan*

*2020-2021*

October 6, 2020



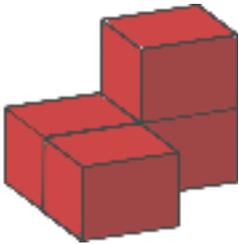
## Forward

The past six months have been a challenging time in our nation. We feel blessed to have had God's protection on our student body, and we are rejoicing that our students and GCS family have been safe during this time.

### **GCS is preparing for in-person instruction**

**five days a week.** As we look forward to school this fall, we are taking additional measures to maintain proper safety measures for our students. The State of Michigan has put into place the *MI Safe Schools Roadmap* that provides a guideline for a safe return to in-person education. We will be using this guideline to establish and improve the quality of our current cleaning, health, and safety practices.

The GCS Safe School Plan is an active plan that is subject to change in light of the fluid nature of the COVID-19 virus spread in Michigan. Our goal as a school is to provide a safe, sensible, and practical environment in which our students can continue to learn. We also want to provide a testimony of Christ-likeness and a biblically-based love for our neighbor as we approach these critical times ahead. The safety protocols laid out in this document are being put into place in order to help us fulfill the GCS mission of *"supporting families and local churches by training students in a biblical, Christ-centered environment."* We value the input received from GCS families and strive to enact practices in our school to support differing views while promoting the overall safety of the school community. We will continue to monitor recommendations from health organizations (CDC and GCHD) that support a safe school environment conducive to optimal learning. In light of the desire to return to in-person instruction, all families will be asked to provide a signed COVID-19 waiver for each child upon their return for "in-person" learning.



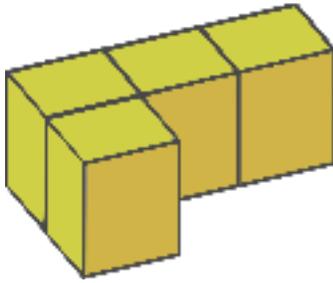
---

## Phase 1-3

In Phases 1-3 the *MI Safe Schools Roadmap* requires that schools are closed for in-person instruction. During a time of a school closure, or the restriction of in-person instruction, GCS will provide an interactive and structured daily school plan, including:

- Regular classroom instruction via Zoom, Google Meet, or other age-appropriate interactive instructional methods during normal school time periods
- Online instruction will include regular assessments
- Regular communication with parents about remote experiences and effectiveness of learning plans in each subject area will be provided

All athletics and extracurricular activities will be suspended during Phases 1-3



## Phase 4

Determination of this status by the State of Michigan is based on the following criteria: number of new cases of COVID-19, health system capacity, and the number of infected individuals. **As of 08/03/2020 Genesee County is in Phase 4.** Daily in-person instruction will take place with the following expectations of school, staff, students, and parents.

### Screening & Illness

- The most important screening of a child's health begins at home. Parents should regularly take their children's temperature at home. Additionally, students should be screened for COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, nasal congestion, loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea. Individuals that display a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or are experiencing two or more COVID-19 symptoms, may not return to school until 72 hours have passed after a full recovery from symptoms. [Symptom Checker](#)
- Non-contact thermometers will be utilized in both buildings, and by the athletic department, in order to quickly and safely read a student's temperature if students display possible symptoms.
- In the event that a child feels ill during the school day, parents will be called to pick up their child. GCS will provide in both buildings a staffed quarantine area, as outlined by the CDC guidelines.
- If a child has left school due to illness and they receive an alternate diagnosis other than COVID-19, then they may return to school 24 hours after full recovery.
- Students who are unable to attend school due to illness or self-quarantine may have the option of streamed classes or recorded lessons whenever possible.
- Attendance awards for students will not be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

### Hygiene

- Regular handwashing times (every 2-3 hours) at the elementary will be implemented.
- Sanitation stations and hand sanitizer dispensers will be available in both buildings and ALL staff and students will be encouraged to use them frequently throughout the day.
- Students will be encouraged to carry with them a small package of tissues and sanitizer during the school day. The school will continue to have both of these items in the classroom setting, but a student who has these easily accessible will be more likely to use them.
- Students should have a personal water bottle and avoid using drinking fountains.

### Cleaning and Sanitation

- Building door handles, lockers and common areas will be sanitized during the day and at the end of each day. Regular daily cleaning of restrooms and locker handles will take place at the end of each school day.

- Desks will be sanitized periodically throughout the day and prior to students entering the classroom.
- Gym equipment for PE classes will be disinfected between classes.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of all athletic equipment will take place after every use.

## Spacing, Movement and Access

- GCS is fortunate to have small numbers of students per classroom as a general practice. For the 2020-2021 school year, desks will be placed in a manner that will maximize the amount of space between each desk.
- Students will have locker assignments to maximize spacing in hallways.
- General assemblies outside of one's grade (or class groupings/cohorts) will be limited.
- Visitors, including parents, will be limited in both buildings. Guests entering the building will be screened for symptoms and must wear a facial covering at all times.
- Signs will be posted on restroom doors reminding students of distancing practices.
- Social distancing is required by all spectators during athletic events. According to MHSAA policies, spectators are required to wear a face covering during games. The number of spectators may be decreased as needed in order to accomplish proper social distancing.

## Food Service, Gathering, and Extracurricular Activities

- Students will eat in the cafeteria with additional social distancing.
- Students will be required to wear face coverings in large assemblies if proper social distancing cannot be maintained .
- Students will be required to wear face coverings during transportation for field trips and inside of buildings during trips.

## Personal Protective Equipment

Both buildings at Genesee Christian School are blessed to not have a population that even comes close to the “maximum” capacity established by local ordinances. Our goal is to provide an environment that is safe in a manner that is achievable by students and staff. Students and staff will be expected to wear facial coverings as required in the Phase 4 guidelines. Facial coverings will be optional in areas where proper social distancing can be attained. Students will be supported by GCS staff and peers in their choices to wear face masks or other PPE that suits their personal needs and exposure sensitivity. Any variations to the facial covering expectations due to medical intolerance will require a signed letter from a parent with medical documentation or an explanation of medical intolerance.

**Taking advantage of the low number of students and the space/size of our buildings GCS will capitalize on the ability to distance students from one another.**

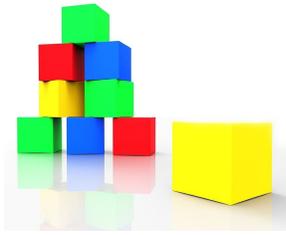
## Facial Coverings

<b>Elementary Students</b>	Grades K4-5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks required when entering the building**</li> <li>• Mask required in hallways and in common areas when not with class**</li> <li>• Masks may be removed in the classroom once students are seated at their desk that is distanced from other students</li> </ul>
<b>Middle &amp; High School Students</b>	Grades 6th - 12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks required when entering the building**</li> <li>• Mask required in hallways and in common areas**</li> <li>• Masks may be removed in the classroom after proper sanitation, cleaning and distancing of the desks has taken place</li> </ul>
<b>Faculty and Staff</b>	All	Required face covering during the school day and in classroom if proper social distancing cannot be attained
<b>Visitors</b>	All	All guests will be required to wear a facial covering.**

*\*\*Anyone who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering is not required to wear one. Parents must provide medical documentation or confirm in writing the explanation of medical intolerance.*

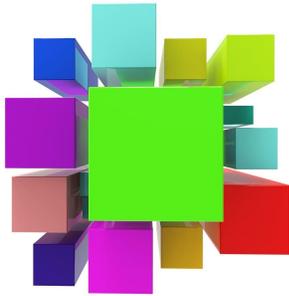
## Response to Positive Cases

- If a student, faculty, or staff member tests positive to COVID-19, then school administration must be notified immediately. GCS will cooperate with the Genesee County Health Department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified. Students who have been exposed to an individual who has multiple COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed case of COVID-19 should self-quarantine for a minimum of 72 hours to avoid the possible spread of illness.



## Phase 5

Phase 5 will be attained when new cases and deaths related to COVID-19 have decreased for an additional period of time as determined by State of Michigan officials. School will remain open for in-person instruction with reduced safety protocols. GCS will continue to practice regular and proper screening, hygiene, cleaning, and distancing, as can be expected during normal operations. PPE equipment, including face masks, will be encouraged for students and staff who desire continued protection.



## Phase 6

Phase 6 is post-pandemic. GCS will be open for in-person instruction and will continue to promote and practice good hygiene practices and minimal safety protocols to avoid spread of infectious disease.