



2021 - 2022  
Academic School Year

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# Covid-19 Health & Safety Guidelines



**This document shall serve as the collective health and safety guidelines for Guardian Lutheran School during the 2021-2022 school year. These guidelines are directed by our increased understanding of COVID-19: its limited spread in our highly mitigated school settings, current national and local data and research, and increased vaccination rates.**

**The guidelines created by this document may be updated at any time if the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Wayne County Health Department (WCHD), Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), or the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) revises its guidance or directly mandates specific guidelines for schools. Please note: Our Early Childhood Program (Preschool & Prekindergarten) and Cougar Care program are required to adhere to LARA regulations.**

**Our primary goal is to ensure a safe and responsible environment for all students, their families, and our staff, while providing full in-person learning. Any changes to our Covid guidelines will be communicated to the GLS community in a timely manner. Guardian will maintain open communication with the MDHHS and the WCHD regarding any changes in federal and state guidance, vaccine updates, and other critical information required to make informed decisions to prioritize the safety of students and staff in our school. Please remember, schools remain one of the safest places for students, teachers, and school staff with regard to mitigating COVID-19 exposure.**

## Vaccination

- Vaccination against COVID-19 is not required but encouraged for employees and eligible students.
- The expectations of length of quarantine differ for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated individuals. Therefore, an employee or student may be required to provide proof of their vaccination status to determine appropriate quarantine.

*\*\*The CDC and MDHHS state that one way to protect the health of children is to ensure that all eligible populations in a household are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.*

## Screening Students and Staff

- Parents/guardians must monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening. This approach relies on students and their caregivers to identify when the student might have symptoms of infectious illness.
- Students who are sick or displaying symptoms of infectious illness should not attend school and seek medical care when necessary.
- Staff members must monitor their health for symptoms of infectious illness every day.
- Staff who are sick or displaying symptoms of infectious illness should remain home and seek medical care when necessary.
- Students who do not feel well will be sent to the sick room in the school office. The office staff will screen the child to determine whether they may return to class.
- Students and staff must abide by the 24 hour rule for all fevers (you must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school).

*Please Note:*

- *We will no longer be taking temperatures at the door.*

## **Spacing & Movement**

- Teachers will maintain seating charts with assigned student seats to assist with contact tracing when necessary.
- Student class capacities have gone back to pre-Covid levels.
- Students and staff will travel between classrooms.
- The lunch room will once again be utilized for lunch periods (masking will be utilized by kitchen staff during preparation and distribution of food).
- Outdoor space will be utilized when appropriate and available for distanced activities.

*Please Note:*

- *We no longer have entry doors for specific class levels. Students may enter the building in the morning from either the welcome center entrance or the playground entrance.*

## **Building Access**

We are still maintaining controls on who can access certain areas of the building during the school day in order to limit outside interactions.

- Preschool, Prekindergarten, & Kindergarten parents will be allowed to take their child to their classroom during morning drop off. PS & PK parents will also be able to pick up their child from the classroom.
- Parents of grade 1-8 students will not be allowed to accompany their child to their classroom at drop off (this is as much to build independence as it is to control building access and limit congestion).

- We once again welcome parent volunteers into the building. However, teachers and staff members must have volunteers approved by the office before the function for which they are assisting.
- The number of volunteers in the building at the same time will also be limited.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Masks will be optional for all students, staff, and visitors at school/school events. This decision will be left to each individual family.
- The wearing of masks on field trips will depend on the requirements of the location that is being visited. If the museum, park, etc. mandates masks to be worn, then students, parents, and staff will have to wear a mask in order to participate.

## **Busing and Student Transportation**

- While Guardian is not requiring masks at school/school events, the use of facial coverings are required by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States.
- Students utilizing Dearborn school busing will be required to wear a mask while on board.
- If Guardian utilizes busing for any field trips, all travelers will be required to wear a mask while on board.

## **Athletics**

- At this time, there are no COVID-19 related restrictions or requirements for athletics. We will continue to follow the guidance of the MHSAA and the WLAL.

## **Gatherings and Extracurricular Activities**

- **Extracurricular activities and clubs are allowed to resume.**
- **Field trips may also resume.**
- **Off-site and overnight retreats will continue to be allowed.**
- **There will be no limits on student & staff capacity during chapel services or other assemblies. However, there will be limited seating for parents to attend these events.**

## **Cleaning & Sanitation**

- **Guardian will continue to utilize the CDC Guidance for cleaning, disinfection, and hand hygiene. We will maintain the additional disinfection and cleaning protocols from the 2020-21 school year.**
- **Water fountains will continue to be used as bottle filling stations, not for active drinking.**
- **Rooms occupied by an individual that tests positive for Covid-19 will be closed until they are fully disinfected.**

## **Testing Protocols**

- **At this time, no school-based testing protocols are being utilized.**

## **Positive COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts**

- **Families must notify school administration immediately of any possible case of COVID-19. Families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation of any symptoms at home.**
- **Guardian will follow the WCHD's guidance for all quarantines.**

## Mental & Social-Emotional Health

- Guardian will foster an environment of Christian love and respect for others' decisions regarding vaccination status and use of masks.
- School personnel will continue to monitor the mental, social, academic, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all students and staff, providing intervention, assistance, and support when needed.

# GUARDIAN



# STRONG