



August 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I want to share with you the **GSA Health & Safety Guidelines 2020-21** that we are putting in place as we begin the school year. As you know, we are adopting a “hybrid” instruction model, part in-person classes and part online teaching and learning. The hybrid model allows us to reduce the number of students and staff on campus at a given time, which in turn enables us to follow health and safety recommendations issued by Maine’s CDC and Department of Education.

Our goal in implementing these guidelines is to keep GSA’s campus buildings and grounds as virus-free as possible. We know we cannot control the ways people behave when they are not on our campus, but we trust the community will exercise all Covid-19-related public health precautions, knowing that doing so will give our schools the best chance of staying open.

Any student or family who is not comfortable with our health and safety requirements may choose to take all classes online from home. We will fully support these students. If you plan on starting your child fully online from home rather than on campus two days a week, please let David Stearns know as soon as possible at [d.stearns@georgestevens.org](mailto:d.stearns@georgestevens.org). Remember that you may shift to on-campus classes at a later time when you feel comfortable doing so.

We will be posting more detailed information about the Health & Safety Guidelines on our website in coming days, so please visit GSA’s back-to-school webpages at [www.georgestevensacademy.org/backtoschool](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/backtoschool). We are also planning to run several public parent forums later this month; stay tuned for information about these forums in coming communications.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at [hos@georgestevens.org](mailto:hos@georgestevens.org).

Respectfully,

Timothy J. Seeley

## GSA HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES 2020-2021

*Note: Guidelines and protocols are subject to modification in light of evolving medical and scientific recommendations. We follow guidance issued by the Maine CDC, the Maine Department of Education, and the Maine Governor's Office.*

I. Scientific consensus holds that the three most effective ways to reduce transmission of the Covid-19 virus are *wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and frequent handwashing*. Therefore,

1. All students, faculty, and staff must wear **face masks** (coverings) at all times while on the GSA campus, except as noted below. Visitors to campus are also required to wear face masks.
  - Face masks may be multilayered cloth or disposable, homemade or commercially sold, and must be worn properly, snugly covering one's mouth and nose.
  - Bandanas, "neck gaiters", and plastic face shields may not be used in place of face masks.
  - Masks may be removed during lunch, to eat a snack, or to take a drink of water.
  - Teachers may arrange for outdoor "mask breaks." During mask breaks, students must maintain six foot distances.
  - Students who do not comply with mask-wearing protocols, or who repeatedly forget to bring their mask to school, will not be allowed on campus, and will need to do all their classwork remotely.
2. All students must maintain **6 feet of physical distances** at all times.
  - Hallways will be marked with two lanes and six foot spacing markers.
  - Classroom desks will be arranged six feet apart.
  - Bathroom occupancy will be limited to preserve physical distancing.
  - Places people are likely to congregate will have spacing markers.
  - No indoor group may exceed 50 persons; no outdoor group may exceed 100 persons.
3. All students must **wash their hands** when they arrive to campus and between classes.
  - There will be hand-sanitizing stations at every building entrance.
  - There will be hand-sanitizing stations in every classroom.
  - Students will be taught proper technique for effective hand washing.
  - Hand-washing/sanitizing requirements apply to everyone on campus.

II. Enhanced maintenance **cleaning protocols**.

1. We will increase the **cleaning and disinfecting** schedule of high touch areas and of the campus facilities as a whole.
  - Shared spaces and objects such as desks and classroom materials will be disinfected multiple times every day.

III. **Daily symptom checks** before coming on campus.

1. All students and all adults must certify daily that they do not have symptoms of any acute illness.
  - Those who have symptoms must contact the Nurse before coming onto campus, and may come on campus only if cleared by the Nurse to do so.

IV. In the event of a **suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19** on campus.

1. We will follow CDC guidelines and advice when we have a suspected or confirmed case.
  - Students with symptoms will be isolated on campus until they can be taken home.
  - Students will continue their coursework online until they are able to return to campus.
  - Suspected or confirmed cases will be allowed back on campus only when medically cleared.