

Aristotle Greek School

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Added 8/18/2020* **Q 1:** What is the protocol in the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibits any signs/symptoms of COVID-19 ?
- A 1:** *If any staff member or students tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibits signs/symptoms of COVID-19*
- they must self-quarantine and show evidence through a negative COVID-19 test prior to returning,
 - or, must complete 10 calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset and be fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms have improved prior to returning
- Added 8/18/2020* **Q 2:** Do you feel that students who are 4, 5, 6, etc years old would feel comfortable wearing face masks for 4-5 hours straight?
- A 2:** *The use of cloth face coverings in educational settings may present challenges, particularly for younger students, However, the CDC guidelines stated that appropriate and consistent use of cloth face coverings is most important when students, teachers, and staff are indoors and when social distancing of at least 6 feet is difficult to implement or maintain.*
- Added 8/18/2020* **Q 3:** If anyone tests positive for COVID-19, would one or two (confirmatory) negative test be required ?
- A 3:** *Only one negative test will be required. Please see question #1 for additional details.*
- Added 8/18/2020* **Q 4:** Will the school provide the face coverings (masks) or will the families be free to use what they like ?
- A 4:** *Masks should be provided by the families for their children. The CDC recommends cloth face coverings if possible.*
- Added 8/18/2020* **Q 5:** Have you considered on-line or hybrid education? Possibly live streaming for children to attend remotely?
- A 5:** *We are seriously considering a live-streaming offering ('virtual classroom') for the Afternoon and Saturday Programs. The 'virtual classroom' would provide a live-stream of the Afternoon and Saturday Programs in their entirety while they are in session. The 'virtual classroom' is intended for families that prefer not to register their children for in-person learning at this time. The offering of the 'virtual classroom' will be based strictly on demand. If there is sufficient interest it will become available. Please contact your Afternoon or Saturday Program Director for more details.*
- Added 8/18/2020* **Q 6:** How many kids in each class? By Grade. I have 6th and 3rd graders.
- A 6:** *Classrooms will be limited to a maximum of nine students. In some cases grades may be combined into levels in order to meet classroom minimums/maximums. Classes conducted in the community center may have more students due to larger space availability.*
- Added 8/18/2020* **Q 7:** What happens if you see a child sick while in school? Have you created an infirmary to contain the kid who is sick while waiting for them to be picked up?
- A 7:** *Any student showing COVID-19 symptoms after entering the school building will be immediately isolated and arrangements made for immediate pick-up.*
- Added* **Q 8:** Will teachers provide homework via e-mail for kids that will not be attending in person?

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- 8/18/2020 **A 8:** *If the 'virtual classroom' learning option is made available, homework will be provided via e-mail and/or the School Program website. Please see question #5 for additional details.*
- Added
8/18/2020 **Q 9:** **What is the cleaning frequency/regiment that is being undertaken?**
A 9: *Classrooms will be sanitized before and/or after use in preparation for next use. In some cases this will be required multiple times a day. A daily schedule is being developed for the time disinfecting will take place. The disinfecting includes, but is not limited to: desks, chairs, floors, rugs, doorknobs, light switches and washrooms. All disinfecting solutions used comply with EPA standards.*
- Added
8/18/2020 **Q 10:** **Why are parents not allowed to enter the building?**
A 10: *We are attempting to maintain social distancing in every situation possible to minimize the potential for the virus to enter the building while students are on premise.*
- Added
8/18/2020 **Q 11:** **If a student or teacher have COVID19, are all students expected to get a test?**
A 11: *If a staff member or students is confirmed for (or probable case of) COVID-19, the following steps will be taken:*
 - *temporary school closure to conduct cleaning & disinfecting of areas impacted by exposure to COVID-19*
 - *identification and notification of individuals who were within six feet for 15 minutes or longer*
 - *placing in quarantine for 14 days students & staff identified as having prolonged close contact*
 - *ongoing monitoring of students & staff for COVID-19 symptoms to identify possible outbreaks*
- Added
8/18/2020 **Q 12:** **Why are you asking for 50% of tuition to be paid by October 1st?**
A 12: *While we normally have had a payment plan that spanned a longer period, we are now in unprecedented times. There are numerous added upfront costs associated with preparing the School and its staff for the opening of the classrooms. Hence the need to collect a greater percentage of the tuition sooner. Classroom size will also be limited, thus ensuring space is reserved for families most interested in having their children attend the School programs. Special accommodations for an extended payment schedule may be considered. This would require pre-authorization for automatic credit card payments. Please discuss with the School Director and/or the Church Office.*
- Added** **Q 13:** **How long will the school be closed if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID19?**

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8/18/2020
Updated
8/25/2020

A 13: School classrooms will temporarily be closed to conduct thorough cleaning & disinfecting of areas impacted by exposure to COVID-19. This is required to ensure the well being of other students and teachers. The exact length of the closure will be dependent on the extent of the exposure to COVID-19.

The CDC provides the following steps for disinfecting a school building/facility if someone is sick:

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronics, etc
- Once area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use

Added
8/18/2020
Updated
9/01/2020

Q 14: How are the classrooms going to provide for social distancing? Are the children going to have 6 feet of space between them?

A 14: Class sizes will take into consideration State of Illinois social distancing guidelines. In most cases, classrooms will be limited to a maximum of nine students. *In some cases, a classroom may be configured to allow for a maximum of 10 students.* All classrooms will be configured to provide for recommended social distancing to the extent possible. Primary classroom configuration allows for 5 ft left/right of each desk chair and 6ft in front/back of each chair. All student desks/workstations in classrooms will face the same direction. Classes conducted in the community center will allow for larger class sizes and even greater social distancing between students due to larger space availability.

Added
8/18/2020

Q 15: If a parent is running late for pick up or stuck in traffic where will the designated holding area be?

A 15: Children will remain in their assigned classrooms until the family member/guardian arrives for pickup.

Added
8/18/2020

Q 16: If we choose not to have our children attend, can we cancel for this school year?

A 16: It is understandable that some families may not feel comfortable having their children attend in-person learning. If a family chooses to not register their child for School this year, they are welcome to return the following year as always.

Added
8/18/2020

Q 17: What happens if a student has the sniffles and no fever. This happens very often in the winter due to the cold weather. Are these students to stay home if they present no fever? Are they to quarantine for 14 days? Will, there be remote learning available during the quarantine?

A 17: Any staff member or student exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms must remain home. Symptoms include, but are not limited to: fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste/smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea. Please see question #11 for additional requirements. Lesson plans can be sent to students during the quarantine period.

Added
8/18/2020

Q 18: Many parents are not working due to COVID-19 related job losses. How is the school helping those families who can not afford tuition for this calendar year?

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A 18: *Any family that is experiencing financial hardship should contact the School Director to discuss the situation. Financial assistance may be provided when/where possible.*

Added
8/18/2020

Q 19: **If parents are not allowed in the buildings. How are we to feel comfortable that social distancing guidelines are being followed by the school?**

A 19: *Special accommodations can be made with the School Director to tour the classrooms while classes are not in session. Diagrams of the classroom configurations can also be provided.*

Added
8/18/2020

Q 20: **The American schools have said guidelines which require the students to have the masks on at all times. How are the Greek school meet these guidelines when it comes to food and beverages to be consumed by the students.? This will require the students to remove their masks in close proximity of each other.**

A 20: *The CDC guidelines allow for food and beverages to be consumed by students while school is in session. During these times, children will be allowed to remove their masks for a short period. To minimize potential risk, snack time will only be permitted for the pre-school and kindergarten grades.*

Added
8/18/2020

Q 21: **In all the years we have had kids in the program, I make a monthly payment and can continue that this year as well. I just can't get half the tuition in by October 1st. Is there any way the plan we have had in the past will be okay for this year as well?**

A 21: *Special accommodations for an extended payment schedule may be considered. This would require pre-authorization for automatic credit card payments. Please discuss with the School Director and/or the Church Office.*

Added
8/25/2020

Q 22: **If families have paid for in-person learning, and the school-year starts but then the classrooms are shutdown for an extended period, will families receive a refund of the tuition paid? If the school reverts to virtual or hybrid learning will there be an adjustment in the tuition?**

A 22: *If the School is required to close its classrooms by the State of Illinois or the Metropolis due to COVID-19, the School plans to move to the 'virtual classroom' option. If a virtual or hybrid instruction model is offered and families choose to continue in the School, no adjustment would be made in the tuition. If a virtual or hybrid instruction model is offered and families choose to withdraw their child(ren) from the School, a prorated refund of the tuition will be provided.*

Added
8/25/2020

Q 23: **Are families expected to pay the same tuition for a virtual or hybrid learning model as opposed to in-person leaning?**

A 23: *The tuition will be the same for in-person learning as well as any virtual or hybrid instruction models offered.*

Added
8/25/2020

Q 24: **Why is the cost of virtual learning the same as in person learning?**

A 24: *There are several incremental expenses associated with the 'virtual classroom' option. This includes, but is not limited to, cameras, headsets, laptops, Zoom licenses, as well as teaching staff salaries and other expenses associated with operating the School.*

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Added 8/25/2020 **Q 25:** During the virtual sessions will the teacher be able to pay attention to the students at home? How to you expect a pre-school, kindergartener, and even a 1st grader to sit for 3 hours roughly in front of a screen?

A 25: *The Center for Disease Control, as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics, believe in-person learning is best for all levels, and especially for younger students. We concur with their recommendations, and thus are dedicated to providing a safe in-classroom experience. We expect that teachers will be able to effectively communicate with students that are participating virtually. We understand that it may be difficult for some children to retain interest over a lengthy period of time. However, some families are not comfortable with their child(ren) attending in-classroom learning at this time. Many have requested that we consider a virtual instruction model for the younger levels. The 'virtual classroom' is intended to be another option for families that would like to continue with Greek learning during the pandemic.*

Added 8/25/2020 **Q 26:** Have you thought about possibly shortening the day? We are not doing dance or other activities so couldn't the school day be shorter?

A 26: *The survey results obtained suggested that most families prefer to continue with a regular school day. If participating virtually, families can inform the teacher they will be exiting the session early if they decide it is too much for their child. Homework for all will be provided via e-mail.*

Added 8/25/2020 **Q 27:** During this time of pandemic people have lost and will continue to lose their jobs. What steps has the church taken to assist the community?

A 27: *Churches are in the community to help support and lift the community during good times and difficult. Our Parish continues to providing support to those in need through its various ministries during this challenging time. Specifically through the new Agape Ministry and the existing Outreach Ministry. Other Parish ministries are also attempting to help where/how they can.*

Added 8/25/2020 **Q 28:** Why not temporarily lower the tuition rates?

A 28: *The School tuition is established to cover all necessary expenses while providing a quality learning environment. It is very difficult for the School to reduce its tuition at a time its challenged to meet its rising expenses. The School pays teacher salaries, utilities, supplies, janitorial expenses, and other expenses through the tuition collected. This year it has added expenses due to address requirements to deal with the COVID-19 virus.*

Added 8/25/2020 **Q 29:** What steps should be taken if I arrive late to school with my child?

A 29: If a student arrives late to school the following procedures should be followed:

- Family rings bell at the main entrance and informs the Church office that they have arrived late
- Family takes student to the door he/she is normally assigned to enter from
- Church office staff will inform the teacher's assistant or Director to receive the student at assigned door
- Teacher's assistant or Director will take students temperature and walk them to their classroom