



# Groves Academy COVID Safety Plan

## Updated: August 2021

### Our Guiding Principles

**We intend to deliver a plan that strikes a balance between the health and safety of our students, teachers, and families with a robust and powerful educational opportunity.**

- Protecting the health and safety of all students and Groves employees is our priority.
- We will closely adhere to MN Dept of Health, MN Dept of Education, CDC, and State guidelines for operating an educational institution and will make differentiated adjustments specific to the unique needs of Groves Academy, Groves Learning Center, and Groves Literacy Partnerships.
- We are committed to providing an impactful learning experience for our students.
- **All components of this outlined plan are subject to change based on new information.**

### Our Key Safety Protocols

#### Screening and Protective Measures

Parents/guardians of students must screen their student for COVID-19 symptoms before bringing their student to school each day.

#### Symptoms of COVID-19 Include:

<b>More Common</b>	Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell;
<b>Less Common</b>	Sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.
Anyone with ONE “more common” symptom OR at least TWO “less common” symptoms should stay home.	

#### Stay home when sick

Students, teachers, and staff should **stay home if they feel sick** and should contact a healthcare provider for testing and care.

Groves follows the Minnesota Department of Health guidance provided in the Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs when determining how long an individual must stay home and isolate or quarantine.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

Students, teachers, and staff who have been **fully vaccinated do not need to stay home even if they have had recent close contact with a confirmed case so long as they do not have symptoms and do not test positive.** Follow CDC testing guidance for anyone exposed to a confirmed case

## Keeping Up with School Work When Home Sick

Students who must stay home because of illness for **three days or more** and can keep up with assignments may do so by communicating with their teachers and checking Google Classroom for each of their classes.

**A remote learning option will not be available.**

## Reporting Illnesses

Promptly report all illnesses to the nurse.

**Nurse Kelly (952) 915-4264**

[nurse@grovesacademy.org](mailto:nurse@grovesacademy.org)

## Face Coverings

**Proper fitting masks are required** to be worn indoors **at all times** by students, staff, teachers, and visitors **regardless of vaccination status**. Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps.

### Exceptions include:

- Staff and teachers may remove their masks if they are working alone in an enclosed space.
- Everyone is allowed to remove their masks while eating, drinking, or participating in outdoor activities.

## Social/Physical Distancing

- Students will maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance within the classroom.
- Teachers, staff, and students must maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from each other.

## Building Cleaning

The building is thoroughly cleaned throughout the day and each evening, with a specific focus on entrances, classrooms, common spaces, restrooms, doorknobs, and stairwell banisters.

## Ventilation

The following measures are in place to ensure that we can safely occupy our facility.

- All rooftop HVAC units are set to continuously circulate as much fresh air as possible while maintaining comfortable temperatures. Teachers and staff are encouraged to open windows when feasible to increase fresh air intake.
- Classrooms will be equipped with commercial-grade air purifiers made by ISO-Aire. These purifiers are equipped with HEPA filtration (99.9% at 0.3 microns). More information at: <https://www.iso-aire.com/rsf-series-commercial-air-purifiers-bipolar-ionization>

## **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Students, teachers, staff, and visitors are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, especially upon arrival, before entering the classroom, and before any mealtime. Hand sanitizer dispensers are located in each room as well as throughout the building.

Students, teachers, staff, and visitors are instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching their face, particularly their mouth, nose, and eyes, with their hands. They are expected to dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

## **Visitor Policy**

All visitors, including parents and guardians, are allowed into the building **by appointment only**. Parents/guardians will drop off and pick up their students outside of the building as per instructions for each division (Groves Academy or Groves Learning Center). Visitors must check-in at the front security desk and complete a COVID-19 form.

## **Testing**

According to CDC guidance, individuals who are not fully vaccinated and return to in-person school, sports, or extracurricular activities (and their families) should **regularly be tested** for COVID-19.