

GRANADA HILLS CHARTER

STUDENT COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Governing Board of Granada Hills Charter (“GHC” or “Charter School”) has adopted this policy, which is effective immediately upon Board approval, for implementation at GHC to protect the health and safety of all GHC students, staff, and its community and prevent future disruptions to full-time, in-person instruction threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

GHC will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, orders and ordinances, as well as applicable Los Angeles Unified School District (“District”) policies, related to COVID-19 and may elect to adjust the following procedures as needed to align with evolving District student COVID-19 vaccination protocols and procedures.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Eligible Students

All GHC students who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, excluding those students with a qualified and approved exemption or conditional admission, must become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a mandatory precondition to accessing any GHC campus. At the time this GHC policy is approved, eligible students for the COVID-19 vaccination are those age 12 and older. In the future, eligible students will include students under the age of 12. The requirement for students to be fully vaccinated is as follows:

Student Group	First Dose Deadline	Second or Final Dose Deadline
Newly age-eligible students (turned 12 years of age)	No later than 30 days after student’s 12 th (or eligible) birthday	No later than eight weeks after student’s 12 th (or eligible) birthday
Students newly admitted for the 2023-24 school year (prior to May 1, 2023)		June 1, 2023
Students newly admitted for the 2023-24 school year (on or after May 1, 2023)	No later than 30 days after GHC makes an offer of admission	No later than eight weeks after GHC makes an offer of admission

Students newly age-eligible for vaccination, or newly admitted for the 2023-24 school year (on or after May 1, 2023), are permitted to access GHC campuses for the 30-day period after GHC makes an offer of admission or the student’s 12th (or eligible) birthday. If the first dose is not completed within the 30-day period, students will be excluded from GHC campuses and programmed into independent study (high school grades only; may not be available in the TK-8). If vaccination is not complete within the eight-week

period, students will be excluded from GHC campuses and programmed into full-time independent study (high school grades only; may not be available in the TK-8).

“Fully Vaccinated”

Fully-vaccinated” refers to an individual who has received the first and second doses of the vaccine (or, in the case of Johnson & Johnson, the single required dose) and has completed the two-week period that follows to ensure maximum immunity.

Required Documentation

Only the following modes may be used as proof of vaccination:

1. COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or World Health Organization Yellow Card) which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, and date last dose administered; or
2. A photo of a Vaccination Record Card as a separate document; or
3. Documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider, which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, date(s), and contact information for the location(s) where the dose(s) were administered.

Parents/guardians must submit student COVID-19 vaccination documentation to GHC by the first and second dose deadlines set forth above to meet the deadlines. As GHC needs sufficient time to process vaccination documentation and make any necessary operational adjustments, failure to submit proof of vaccination to GHC by the respective deadline may prevent a student from accessing campus for in-person learning and may prompt a different class schedule beginning August 14, 2023.

After the vaccination document is submitted, it will be reviewed and verified by an authorized GHC staff member. The verification process may take approximately five (5) to ten (10) schooldays, and GHC reserves the right to reopen the verification process. The verification process may necessitate the provision of additional information from parents/guardians and/or medical providers, at GHC’s sole discretion. Provision of fraudulent or unverifiable vaccination documentation will result in exclusion from GHC campuses. GHC will cooperate with applicable law enforcement and relevant agencies, and will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, orders, ordinances, and student privacy regulations.

Student vaccination records and information will be maintained securely and confidentially in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations governing the privacy of student health information and other student records.

Exemptions and Conditional Admission

Parents/guardians may apply to seek exemption from the student COVID-19 vaccine requirements or conditional admission only under the following circumstances:

1. Qualified Medical Exemption

- a. Parents/guardians seeking a medical exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine for their child will be required to submit a completed Student Medical Exemption to the COVID-19 Vaccine Form to GHC.

To allow ample time for GHC staff to process, review, and reply to qualified medical exemption requests, any parent/guardian or adult student seeking a medical exemption must submit a complete Student Medical Exemption to the COVID-19 Vaccine Form to GHC within 30 calendar days from receipt of an offer of admission from GHC. Failure to submit the qualified medical exemption form to GHC by the deadline may prevent a student from accessing the GHC campus for in-person learning.

Medical exemptions are not guaranteed and are subject to review, verification, and inquiry from the Medical Exemption Committee (“MEC”). The MEC has authority and discretion to approve or deny an exemption request, including the length of time for the exemption. The MEC’s proceedings are not public. Decisions from the MEC are appealable to an Independent Expert Review Panel (“IERP”).

An appeal to the IERP must be made within five (5) business days of the MEC’s written decision. An appeal shall be submitted to legal counsel for the IERP, at ghccovidmedexemption@ghctk12.com. Upon receipt of an appeal, the IERP’s legal counsel shall schedule a hearing, held by video conferencing platform, within ten (10) business days of receipt of a timely appeal. During the appeal hearing, the parent/guardian or adult student, and any representative, shall be afforded ten (10) minutes to make a presentation to the IERP. The IERP panel’s deliberations and decisions are not public. The IERP’s decision shall be final and shall be communicated by its legal counsel.

During the pendency of an appeal, the student shall maintain their current academic program. If an appeal is denied, the student shall commence a COVID-19 vaccination sequence within three (3) business days of receiving the IERP’s decision. If the student does not commence the vaccination sequence (i.e., receive a first dose) within three (3) business days, they will be programmed into independent study.

2. Conditional Admission

- a. Students may be conditionally admitted if they are in one of the following groups: (1) foster youth; (2) experiencing homelessness; (3) migrant; or (4) military family. Conditional admission is not indefinite.

- b. Students with an individualized education program (“IEP”) shall not be denied educational services pursuant to their IEP.

GHC will notify the parent/guardian confirming the exemption or conditional admission approval, denial, or indicating that further attention is required.

Exclusion from GHC Campuses

Beginning Thursday, June 1, 2023, eligible students who have not submitted proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or received a qualified and approved exemption or conditional admission pursuant to this policy will not be permitted on GHC campuses or facilities.

Other Ongoing Campus Health and Safety Measures

GHC will continue to implement other health and safety measures on campus as necessary to comply with current applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, orders and ordinances related to COVID-19 and District health and safety policies and procedures as they relate to charter schools on District sites.