

GISSV Kibili

Reopening Plan

February 2021

Dear Kibili Families,

We at GISSV are keenly aware that you, like parents all across the country, are eagerly awaiting plans about the re-opening of our facilities in February 2021.

We are prioritizing the reopening of the Kibili program with our primary focus being the safety of children, families and staff. The key factor in our plan, as you will find outlined in detail in this document, is our ability to create closed, self-contained stable groups of students and teachers to prevent any cross-contamination and ensure no interaction between groups. Many structures from the low teacher-student ratios and large classrooms with real windows and individual bathrooms to the new HVAC system with high grade filters and our easy access to outside spaces will work to our advantage.

Things will obviously look and feel different - masks and mask breaks, frequent hand washing routines, outside learning times, only to name a few. In order to ensure that the environment is the safest possible, we all must work together to follow guidelines and protocols for cleaning, safety and health.

In a world of uncertainties, we want you to know that one thing is certain: the teachers and staff of the Kibili program are rising to the challenges of this unprecedented time with dedication, commitment and a resolve to deliver the best experience possible to your child and our families. This remarkable community of families, students and staff ensures that GISSV remains a powerful and transformative experience. Thank you for being part of that. Thank you for entrusting your children to us. Please know that we are here for you, to listen, to learn, and to care.

Morena Waack and your Kibili Team

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Abbreviations and Explanations

KIBILI - Kindergarten Bilingual - Name for our PS and K program at GISSV

PS - Preschool (2-5 years)

K - Kindergarten (5-6 years)

DLP - Distance Learning Plan

EWP - Essential Worker Program

AA - Afternoon Activities

Stable Groups - Closed group of children and teachers with no interaction with other students or staff so as limit transmission and avoid complete closure in case of positive case

1. Introduction and Overview

GISSV is prioritizing the reopening of our Kibili classes with the health, safety and well-being of the children, families and staff as the highest priority. We are committed to providing a nurturing and safe learning environment that adheres to guidelines and recommendations from local and government agencies. This document will provide the latest updates and requirements but due to the ever evolving situation, the current guidelines and regulations are subject to change and this document will be updated accordingly.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

(Source: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)

2. Official Guidelines

For the school's safe reopening we are following the guidelines issued by Santa Clara Public Health:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/school-guidance.aspx>

Considerations for school released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
(Updated February 2021)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

Guidance from California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE):

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-childcare--en.pdf>

GISSV Reopening Plan
On school's website

Common public health strategies to reduce the risk of disease transmission in schools and other community settings include: (1) minimizing the number of people who come into contact with each other, (2) maximizing the physical distance between people, (3) reducing the time that people spend in close proximity to others, and (4) measures to minimize dispersion of droplets and aerosols (e.g., using face coverings and covering coughs and sneezes). Because the relative contribution of each of these measures in reducing the spread of COVID-19 is not yet clear, public health experts have generally recommended that they be used collectively where (Source: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/school-guidance.aspx>)

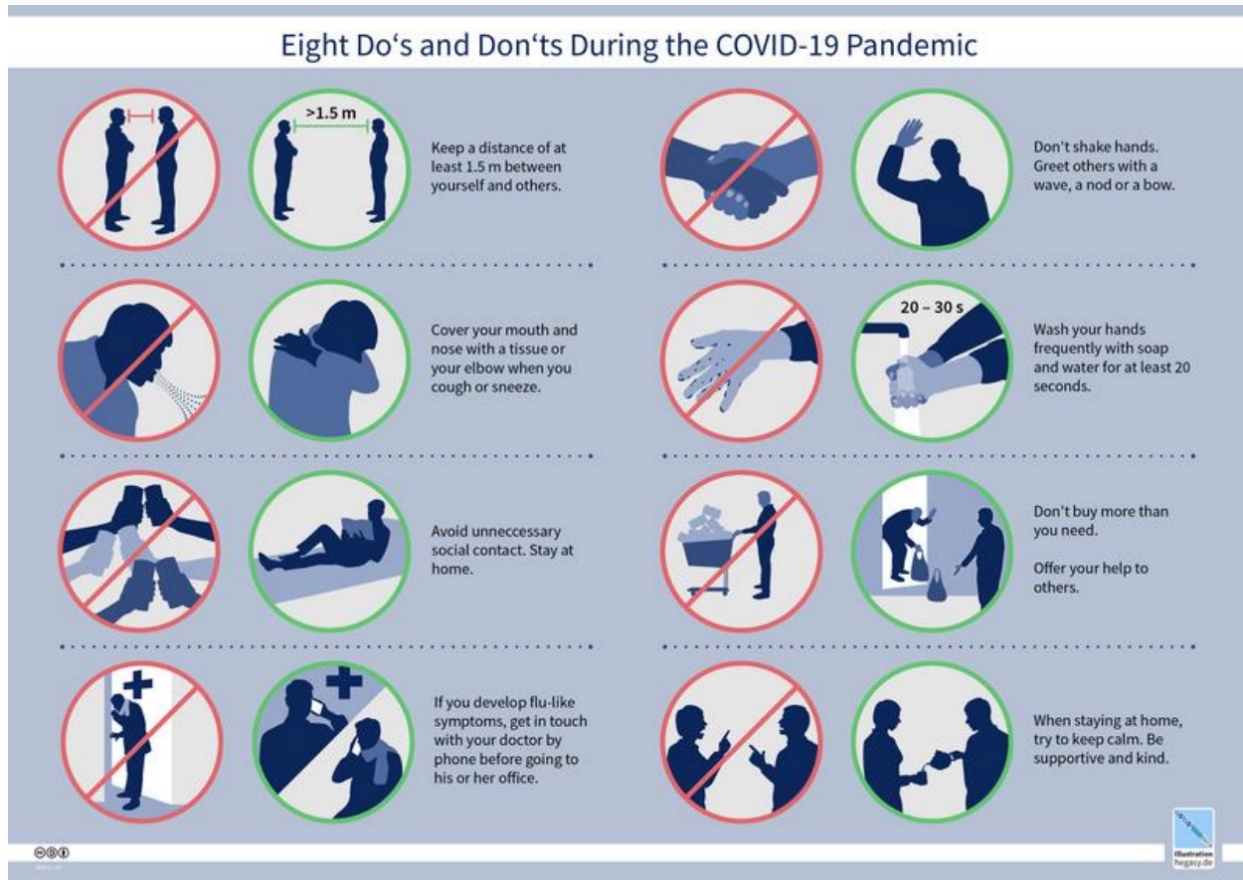


Illustration 2: Do's and Don'ts During the COVID-19 Pandemic (justquarantine.com)

3. Schedules and Phases

Kibili will reopen in phases to ensure the adjustment of the children, family and staff to the Kibili program and its new procedures and protocols. The goal is to offer a safe and nurturing learning environment for Kibili children. We will offer two options to our families to choose from:

Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 days on campus in-person + 1 online day* <p>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday in person, Wednesday online day</p> <p>3-Day PS program on three days 8:00 am -1:00 pm PS 8:00 am - 1:00 pm K 8:00 am - 1:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small stable groups of 10-12 children + 2 teachers
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time online program with daily live interactions 1 Preschool program 1 K-class program <p><i>Children from MV and SF campus will be combined as one online stable group</i></p>
<p>We ask each family to make <u>one choice</u> for the weeks until March 26, 2021.</p>	

* During the past couple of months the children have acquired valuable online competencies, which we want to retain and prepare for a possible scenario which would require us to move back to distance learning.

The following is an overview over the phases and describes which families are involved in which phase:

	Preschool & Kindergarten Groups	Families Involved
<u>Phase 1</u>	Essential Workers Program (EWP) Mo - Fr 8:00 am - 1:00 pm	Children of Kibili families with Essential Workers
<u>Phase 2</u> Feb 8 - 12 Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No on-campus and no online program - No camp options - No Essential Workers Program - Families and staff asked to comply with all recommendations and regulations by local and government agencies 	
<u>Phase 3</u> Starting Feb 16 Online Only Option	starts for PS and K on February 16	All families that signed up for the online-only option
Starting Feb 16 In-Person on campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you do not take part in the testing event offered by GISSV on February 8 you must provide a negative test result by Friday, February 12 noon. - Groups might be different than communicated in beginning of school year and new rosters will be sent out - Children on campus 8:00am - 1:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday in person, Wednesday online day 	Children that participated in the Kibili Distance Learning Program 2020/21 + Children that originally postponed their start date

4. Online-Only Option

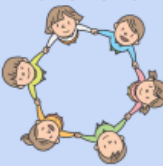
Kibili will provide online material and resources to enable students to engage in stimulating activities and further the German language acquisition.

The main opportunity for communication will be provided through connection by email. To enable all students to share this experience, we have assigned a new GISSV-email account for the parents on behalf of their children. We need the parents to be in charge of all activity that will be connected to this account. Parents and/or guardians will receive an invitation for their child and will be able to access all features with that email address.














We will offer live sessions up to three times daily, including circle time, project work, small group activities and an afternoon activity. In addition, group teachers will post supplemental material to enhance learning. The live sessions and posted material will foster the German and English language acquisition as well as provide a nurturing and stimulating learning experience. There will also be an option to book a ten-minute time slot once a week with one of your child's teachers to report on progress or address any questions in regards to posted material. Please reach out to support@gissv.org in case you have any questions about your gmail account or the Google Classroom platform. Please reach out to your group teachers if you have any questions about the posted material.

Sample weekly online schedule of a K-class:

Tiger Group Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
Morning Circle 9-9:25	Morning Circle 9-9:25	Morning Circle 9-9:25	Morning Circle 9-9:25	Morning Circle 9-9:40
				
Activity and Worksheet	Activity and Worksheet	Activity and Worksheet	Activity and Worksheet	Activity and Worksheet
				
Small Group 9:45-10:15 or 10:15-10:45	Small Group 9:45-10:15 or 10:15-10:45	Small Group 9:45-10:15 or 10:15-10:45	Small Group 9:45-10:15 or 10:15-10:45	Happy Friday Fun Day! 10:30-11:00
				
1 on 1's 11:00-12:00	Open Door (homework help) 11-11:30	1 on 1's 11:00-12:00	Tiger Playground 11-11:30	
				

Sample weekly online schedule of a PS-class:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Circle 09:00 - 9:30 	Morning Circle 09:00 - 9:30 	Morning Circle 09:00 - 9:30 	Morning Circle 09:00 - 9:30 	Morning Circle 09:00 - 9:30 
		1 on 1's  <div>11.10- 11.20</div> <div>12.30-12.40</div>		1 on 1's  <div>11.10-11.20</div>
Live Activity 10:30 - 11:00  Literatur/ Literacy You need: Nothing special	Live Activity 10:30 - 11:00  Sport/PE You need: Ball Pillows Chair	Live Activity 10:30 - 11:00  Experiment How strong is Spaghetti? You need: 	Live Activity 10:30 - 11:00  Kochen/ Cooking "Pancit" You Need: You will find the recipe in google classroom	Live Activity 10:30 - 11:00  Kunst/Art White paper Noodles Glue
Good-bye circle 12:00 - 12:20	Good-bye circle, 12:00 - 12:20	Good-bye circle 12:00 - 12:20	Godd-bye circle 12:00 - 12:20	Godd-bye circle 12:00 - 12:20

5. Stable Groups and Teachers

We start with four preschool classes on campus, one preschool class online, three kindergarten classes on campus, and one K class online. Each group has its own classroom and individually assigned bathrooms to use. To maintain stable groups and minimize the risk of transmission between groups the same two teachers will stay with their class. These teachers will stay with the same group of children and will not be in physical contact with other groups or teachers.

Please note: Should one of the two teachers be unable to come to school for the day due to sickness or other personal reasons, the class will be held online for the day, and if needed the following days, until both teachers are able to be on campus again. You will be notified as soon as possible but the latest by 7:00am the day of.

Ratio - in-person Preschool

In preschool there will always be two teachers and 10-12 children present in each class.

Ratio - in-person Kindergarten

In Kindergarten there will be at least one teacher and up to 12 children present in each class.

Ratio Online-Only Program

One German speaking teacher will be in charge of the preschool online-only program and one German speaking teacher will be in charge of the Kindergarten online-only program.

6. Testing

You will be required to show a negative COVID test for your child that is not older than 7 days in order to attend in-person classes on campus. If you do not take part in the testing event offered by GISSV on February 8 you must provide a negative test result by February 12 noon.

The students will be retested every other week. Teachers will be tested every week.

If you travel during the winter break more than 150 miles from your home you need to quarantine for 10 days after your return and show a negative test result for your child that is no older than 7 days before you can return to campus.

7. Daily Health Screening
























































Daily health checks are key to mitigating the risk of transmission. After in-depth analysis by different GISSV stakeholders we will be working with Magnus Health. This program provides us the ability to track our students' well-being on a daily basis.






How does it work? Before bringing your child to school, families are required to check their child for Covid19 related symptoms, including measuring their temperature. After the check-up, the program asks for that information and transfers a confirmation to the school and provides you with advice as to whether you can bring your child, your child should remain at home, seek medical advice, etc. Only children for whom we have a confirmation that they are symptom-free will be allowed into the Kibili groups. The questionnaire will be available each morning. It must be submitted by **7:15am!**

It is crucial that you keep your child home when he or she shows symptoms! If your child were to come to school with symptoms the whole stable group would be compromised. This is the responsibility of all the teachers, parents and staff of the school.

Staff is also required to do a daily health screening and will be required to stay home if they show any symptoms related to Covid19.

Covid-19 symptoms vs. flu, cold and allergies

	 Cough	 Fever	 Breathless- ness	 Body aches	 Head- ache	 Fatigue	 Sore throat	 Diarrhea	 Runny nose	 Sneezing	 Watery eyes
Covid-19											
Flu											
Cold											
Allergies											

 Frequently
  Sometimes
  Little
  Rarely
  None

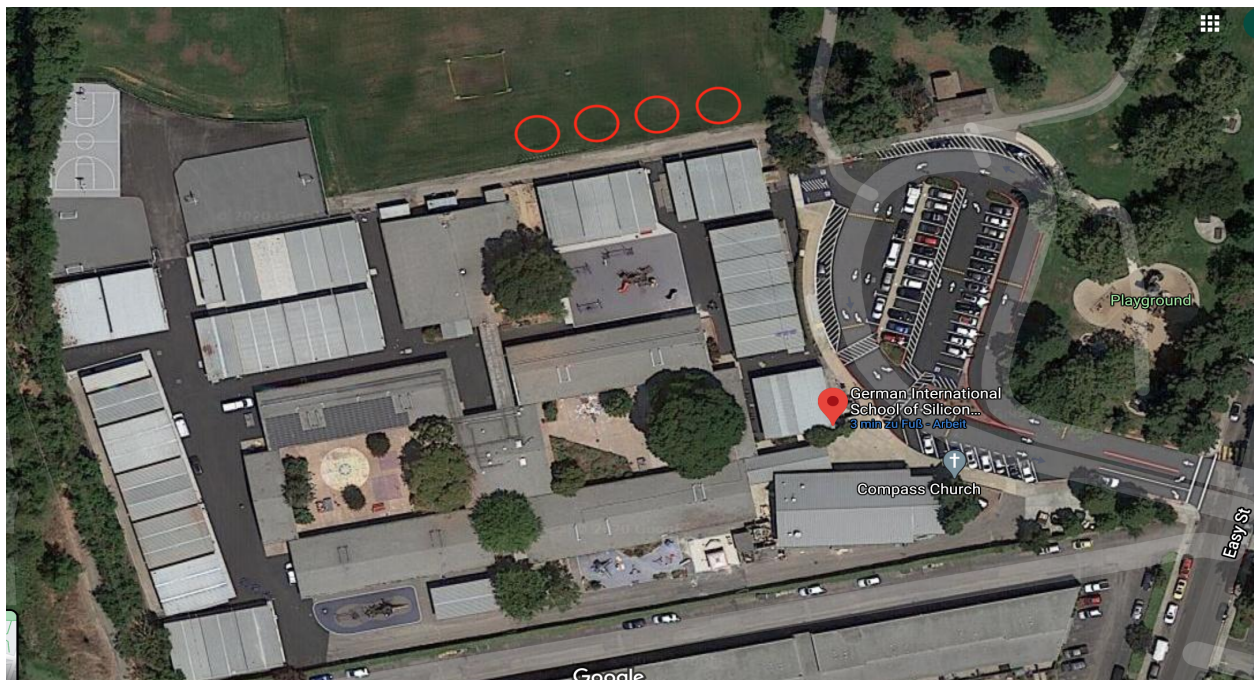
SOURCE: Carver County Public Health

NEWS TRIBUNE GRAPHICS

Illustration 1: Comparison of COVID-19 symptoms with flu, cold and allergies (Carver County Public Health)

8. Drop-off and Pick-up

Both k-classes and preschool classes will meet at 8:00 am at the gates adjacent to Whisman Park. Pick up will be at the same spot for k-class and for preschool at 1:00pm.



We must insist that you please be on time for drop-off and pick-up. This helps to make sure that all children and their parents can maintain social distancing, that the children stay in their stable groups and that the drop-off and pick-up is smooth for everybody.

If you are not able to arrive within the assigned time, you will need to park on the street and wait until there is a window during which no class is arriving or leaving. Please call the front office and let them know that you are waiting. A teacher will meet you at their earliest convenience. In order to facilitate a contact-free drop-off and pick-up routine we are using a sign-in/sign out app. If you haven't used the app before, you will receive more information and instructions on how to sign up as an email.

9. Daily Routines

Masks

Everyone who enters GISSV age 2 and older is required to wear a mask.

Parents are required to wear masks during drop off and pick up.

We are aware of the difficulties of wearing masks for young children and will include frequent mask breaks during the day. During snack time the children will not wear masks. The teachers will also organize and encourage mask breaks whenever it is possible for social distancing in the classroom.

Please provide your child with 4 masks each day in a bag marked “clean”. Additionally, provide a bag marked “dirty” for used masks to be washed or discarded each evening at home.

Exceptions for wearing face masks include situations that may inhibit an individual from wearing a face mask safely. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Children under the age of 2 years;
- Children who cannot safely and appropriately wear, remove, and handle masks;
- Children who have difficulty breathing with the mask or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance;
- Children with severe cognitive or respiratory impairments who may have a hard time tolerating a face mask;
- Individuals who, due to a behavioral health diagnosis or an intellectual impairment, are unable to wear a mask safely; and
- Individuals who need to communicate with people who rely upon lip-reading.

When wearing a mask, follow the mask protocol:

- Washing hands before putting on your mask;
- Your mask must cover your chin and be secure across the bridge of the nose, there should be no large gaps at the cheeks;
- Do not touch the front of the mask, take on and off by using the straps;
- Make sure you can breathe easily;
- If mask becomes moist:
 - disposable mask – throw away and place new one on face
 - cloth mask – switch out and wash at home
- Regular mask breaks are taking place;
- A cloth mask should fit well, have two layers and ideally a metal piece across the nose that assists with a good fit.
- Teachers will assist children when putting on/ taking off masks.

The following graphic outlines why mask wearing is important:

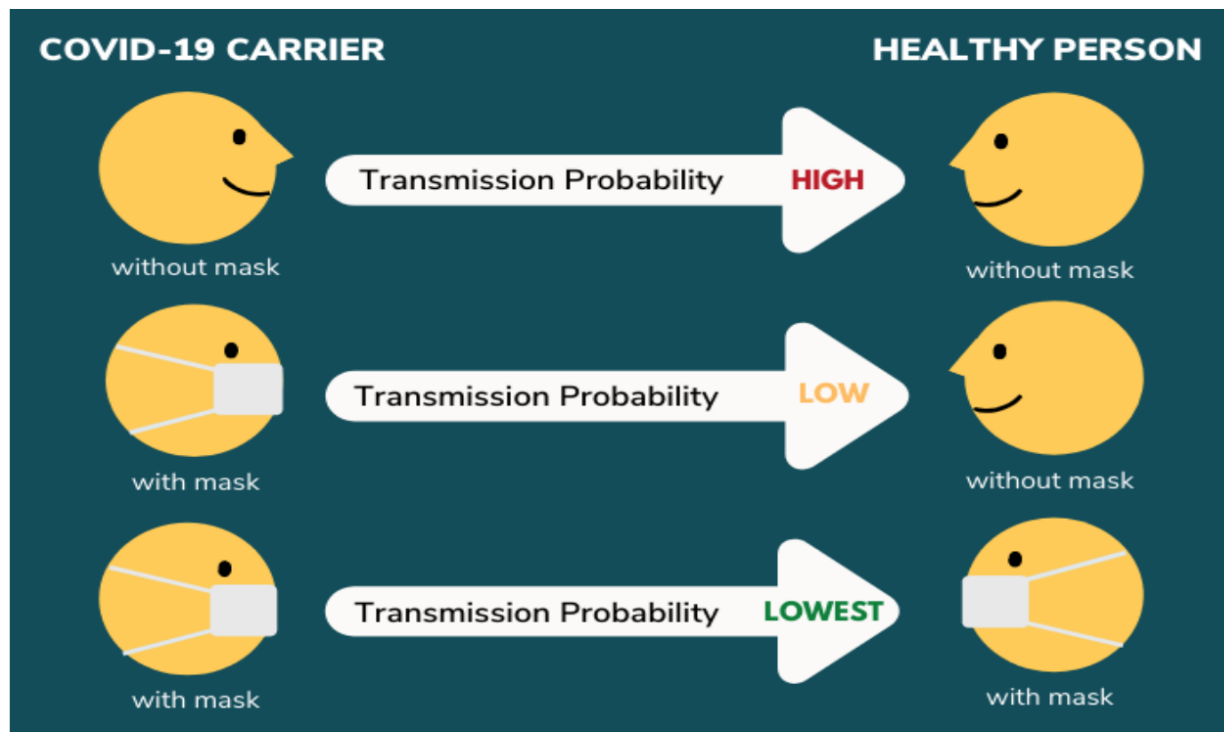


Illustration 3: Comparison of COVID-19 transmission probability with and without masks (East Alabama Medical Center)

Food Handling

Staff will clean and disinfect the tables before and after eating. Children will bring their own food and utensils from home. After use, they will either discard the used utensils or pack them to take back home. They will also bring a water bottle to be used throughout the day. There will be no shared food or food preparation in the classrooms.

Free Play

We value free play as part of the daily routine for both PS and K-class. It is our goal to foster the development of healthy social and emotional interactions among the children. They will have the

opportunity to engage with different materials of their choosing throughout the day while maintaining social distance and wearing face masks.

Playground

The playground will be divided into three sections. Each section will only be used by one stable group at a time. There will be a cleaning break in between stable groups. Your child's group playground times will be posted in the daily schedule.

Restrooms

Each group will have an assigned bathroom. While in the bathroom, children and staff will also wear face coverings. If possible exposure to bodily fluids is apparent, staff will wear gloves. There will be a maximum of two children using the bathroom at once. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.

School Events

Special events will be either held online or postponed until further notice.

Parent Involvement

Even though parents are a crucial part of our community, on campus access will be restricted to staff and children until further notice.

Ventilation

Windows and doors will be open whenever possible to ensure proper ventilation. All rooms are either equipped with an air purifier or HVAC filters in the AC.

Groups will spend as much time outside as possible on the playground and in the neighboring parks.

Nap Time

Children will not nap at school.

Afternoon Activities

As a measure of caution we will not offer any external afternoon activities this semester. Our staff will offer online live afternoon activities that families are free to join. The links to join these sessions can be found in the Google Classrooms.

10. Guidelines on Campus and in Rooms

Regular Cleaning and Disinfecting

Staff will follow the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>)

- When cleaning and disinfecting, always follow instructions on the label to ensure the product's safety and efficiency.
- Wear protective gloves when handling cleaning products.
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be in the classroom.
- Toys that have been played with will be set aside. After cleaning the toys they will be air dried before offered to a child.
- Regular cleaning staff will do the deep cleaning after children and staff have left the room for the day.
- Material will not be shared among the groups unless it has been cleaned and disinfected properly.

Items from Home

Your child is allowed to bring one stuffed animal to school for comfort which is especially important during the first few weeks of school. It is important however that these stuffed animals are not shared with other children. No other toys from home are allowed on campus.

Promoting Handwashing and Good Hygiene

Good and frequent handwashing will be promoted and discussed with the children. In addition, we installed contact-less faucets and paper towel dispensers. Cleaning protocols for highly touched areas are in place and will be followed.

The classroom will be frequently cleaned and sanitized.

Hand Washing

All children and staff engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- After arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after handling food
- After diapering/ helping children in the bathroom
- After using bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After coming in from outdoors
- After handling garbage
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After helping or being in close proximity with someone who sneezed or coughed
- After touching one's face
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
- After using shared equipment like toys, scissors, pens. etc.
- Before and after taking off masks.

All staff and children must adhere to regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds:

- Turn water on and wet hands, remove from water
- Add soap to hands and create friction to make bubbles
- Scrub for 20 seconds
- Rinse hands under running water
- Dry hands with single use paper towels
- Turn off faucet with paper towels

The following graphic explains the right handwashing technique:



Illustration 4: Good Hand-Washing Practice (Pininterst.com)

Universal Precautions

All staff will keep universal precautions in mind to reduce the risk of spreading diseases. That includes the use of gloves, protective goggles and other safety measures.

Physical Distancing in the Classroom

One important goal in student's returning to campus is their social development. Measures will be put in place to encourage physical distancing. Nevertheless in creating the stable groups we are enabling the children to continue their social development.

Measures put in place include:

- Assigned seating and spaces for each child
- Markings on the floor (line-up, walking directions,...)
- Child-friendly signage

It is important for the children to feel safe and cared for, even under extraordinary circumstances. If a child needs to be comforted, staff is required to wash areas that came in touch with child's fluids immediately. If any child's fluid came in touch with clothes, staff is advised to change their affected clothes and put the soiled clothes in a plastic bag to wash at home.

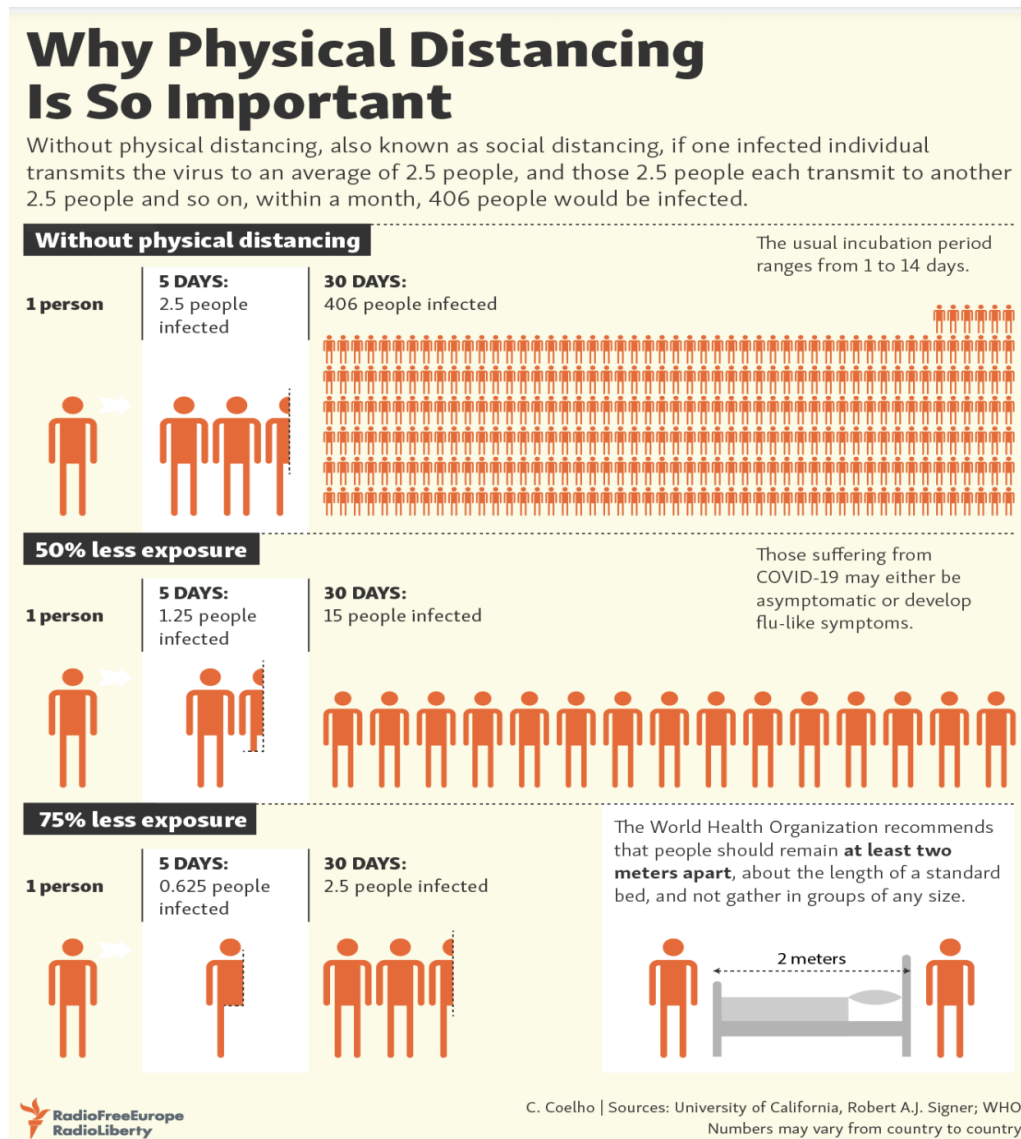


Illustration 5: Why Physical Distancing is so important (rferl.org)

Health Guidelines

Protocols and guidelines as to how to handle students or staff with signs of sickness will be released shortly. An isolation room has been assigned in the building to ensure that people with symptoms can immediately be separated from other members of the stable group.

There will also be a protocol in place on how the school proceeds if there is a positive test result of students, parents and staff of GISSV and what the consequences will be in such a case.

11. Communication

Parent Communication

To minimize personal contacts, no face-to-face communication between parents and teachers will take place at the moment. Please contact the teachers of your child by email to arrange an online meeting or phone call if needed. Our regular bi-annual parent-teacher conferences will be held online.

If your child is sick or cannot attend school for other reasons, please inform the front office by 8:00 am.

GISSV Front office:

office@gissv.org

(650) 254-0748



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12. Changes of Guidelines / Closure of Campus

Additional protocols and policies are provided and apply to the whole school.

Should the current health situation in California change and additional guidelines or orders are released, we are prepared to adapt our protocols and procedures accordingly. The health of our community is our top priority. We monitor the information released by the Department of Education, the Santa Clara County Health Department and the State of California closely. We will inform and keep you updated about any changes in our schedule and procedures. We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation during these unusual times.