

GATE Guidelines for Healthy Participation for 2021-2022 School Year as of August 2021

Over the years, we have not had problems with contagious diseases breaking out in our membership because our members have committed to being responsible and staying away from co-op when necessary. We continue to ask that our members keep this high standard in regards to their participation at GATE in order to show respect and love to each other and to our host church.

Our handbook contains the minimum guidelines required to attend co-op. These are located in the Guidelines Just for Parents and also in the section on absences. All families are encouraged to read through these sections and understand the intention and requirements of the guidelines. The various government agencies are clear about one thing: being responsible for your health helps you and others.

Again this school year, we will be asking families to still submit to temperature checks when they arrive. We will also take temperature checks on individuals who show symptoms of possible illness later in the morning. If any family member has a temperature of 99.1 or higher on the non-touch thermometer, the entire family will need to leave the co-op class facility for the day.

Congruent with current state allowances, we will allow everyone the choice of wearing a mask. Families can make decisions regarding masks based on their individual needs. Any person is free to wear masks or other protective items during co-op and cannot be asked to remove them if they choose to wear them. GATE members should respect each individual's choice and not demean it. Distancing is another good practice to provide a layer of protection. Vaccination status does not affect these requirements.

We also recommend that all parents and students practice good hygiene in regards to touching, coughing, and sneezing (wash/sanitize regularly, cover coughs & sneezes). We understand that we live in a high allergy area. If a member has allergy issues (without any fever), please take medications/supplements to help control them and wear a mask at co-op as a precaution. If the symptoms are not controllable (obvious coughing, sneezing, runny nose), please keep your family at home.

GATE set up procedures will include disinfecting high touch surfaces in all the areas our co-op meets, sanitizing wipe of all tables and counters we use, and setting up sanitization stations around the meeting areas. GATE clean up procedures will include final disinfection of high touch surfaces and sanitation wipe of tables and counters in all the areas we use, in order to leave the facility in good condition for our host church.

We still request that, as much as possible, students do not share supplies. Families should read through required supplies for their student's classes and make sure they have their own supplies for each class. Teachers should set up and direct their classes so that students have protective distances as much as possible. Assistants should do sanitizing wipes of the tables and shared supplies at the end of class.

If anyone in your family is exhibiting symptoms of illness, we ask that the entire family stay home. If anyone in your family has possible COVID exposure, we ask that the entire family not attend co-op until the typical 10-day quarantine has passed without any family member in the same household showing new symptoms; or the entire family (everyone in the same household) may be tested and present a clear test report. These requirements apply even if you have been vaccinated.

NOTE: If mandates regarding the use of personal protection equipment change, we will reevaluate these policies and issue new guidance.