



# Introduction and Overview

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Covenant House Academies provide at-risk youth in our communities with new opportunities to earn a high school diploma, improve their life skills, and the academic foundation to continue on to higher education or postsecondary skills training. Aided with a compassionate and caring staff, the schools prevent poverty, underachievement and homelessness while offering hope, encouragement and a better chance for future success.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. CHA students do better at school than remotely, due to the structure, guidance and support we provide.
2. CHA students and their families are at high risk for COVID-19 by virtue of geography, race, and income.
3. Safety of students and staff is paramount in every decision.
4. Youth Vision Solutions strongly agrees with public health agencies and encourages all eligible individuals to become vaccinated except those advised not to by their physician

## INTRODUCTION

Since the closure of school buildings in March of 2020, Covenant House Academy has worked tirelessly to keep students supported through information about GRPS meal sites, weekly wellness check-ins, counseling supports, and resources to social services. Academically, every student who requested a computing device during school closures and those who chose to work remotely during the 2020-2021 school year received a computing device to continue working in our online curriculum and a number received assistance in setting up Internet connectivity in the home.

Our focus, as we begin the 2021-2022 school year, is to safely bring the students back into the classroom. As public health conditions surrounding COVID-19 in Kent County continue to change, we will continue to work under the guidance of the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) to make safe decisions for staff and students during the 21-22 school year. Our ultimate goal is to keep staff and students safe and to continue to keep students in the classroom.



**Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids under the guidance of the KCHD has the following procedures and practices for Staff, Students, and Visitors in place to minimize or eliminate COVID-19 exposure. These guidelines and procedures are subject to change as KCHD guidance changes:**

## **Current Public Health Orders**

- The current Kent County Health Department Public Health Orders can be found [here](#).
- Highlights of the August 6, 2021 orders include:
  - All persons identified as confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases must isolate for at least 10 days as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
  - Household close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases are required to quarantine as described by the CDC.
  - All persons in an educational setting in close contact with a COVID-19 case involved in an outbreak are required to quarantine as described by the CDC.

## **Daily Screener & Temperature Checks**

- Staff, Students, and Visitors must self-screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Each employee will conduct a daily entry self-screening using the [M1symptomapp.state.mi.us](https://m1symptomapp.state.mi.us)
- [Students will take a quick screener and have their temperature taken when they arrive for the day.](#)
- Staff and students that fail the screening are required to stay at home and follow the [Kent County Flow Chart for symptoms](#).
- Anyone entering the building (staff, students, visitors) are required to have a temperature check. Anyone with a temperature above 100 degrees will not enter the building.

## **Face Coverings**

- Following the KCHD and [CDC](#) recommendations, CHAGR is mandating the use of face coverings by staff, students, and visitors while indoors. Exemptions for the face covering policy are available under the following limited circumstances if a parent/guardian:
  - Provides documentation that the student cannot wear a mask due to medical conditions.
  - Provides documentation that a face covering is detrimental to the wellbeing of their child.
  - While eating or drinking. All meals will be “grab and go,” and will be eaten in the classrooms.
- The CDC’s order requires all persons – regardless of vaccination status – wear masks on public transportation.



- Face coverings are available for those in need at the security desk at the front entrance.

## Healthy Hygiene Habits

- [CDC guidelines on handwashing](#). Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections from one person to the next.
- Hygiene signage will be placed throughout the building and in all restrooms:
  - How to cough and sneeze into elbows.
  - Encouraging use of hand sanitizer.
  - Proper ways to wash hands.
  - Keeping social distance
  - Limiting sharing of personal items (Pencils, phones, etc).

## Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Ventilation

- High touch surfaces (light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, ect.) will be cleaned at the end of each 5.5 hour school day following the [CHA Custodial Cleaning Procedures](#) based on CDC guidance
- All classrooms have been equipped with both a high volume air filtration and a humidifier to increase air quality.
- All classrooms and offices have individual air conditioner/heating units that cycle in air from outdoors. Air conditioner filters were disinfected summer 2021.
- Weather permitting windows are encouraged to be open.

## Social Distancing

- CDC recommends schools maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by students, teachers and staff, regardless of vaccination status.
- All CHAGR classrooms have been reconfigured to conform with suggested social distancing recommendations.

## Contact Tracing

- The KCHD will continue to require a 10 day quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts of “household” and “outbreak” cases of COVID-19.
- Schools are required to contact trace and to notify KCHD of close contacts related to the exposure. KCHD will send notification to these close contacts which will include recommendations and/or requirements to quarantine if indicated.
- Quarantine may or may not be indicated depending on the vaccination status and use of masks by the students.



## **COVID-19 Vaccinations**

- Public health agencies strongly encourage individuals to become vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine is a health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Youth Vision Solutions and Covenant House Academy encourages everyone who can receive a COVID vaccination to do so.
- Vaccines are currently available for all people ages 12 and older. Please contact the KCHD or your health care provider to learn more.