The health and safety of GCPS students and staff is our highest priority. Here are some tips you need to know and a few ways that you and your family can help.

**Maintaining a healthy school environment**

Everyone plays a part in maintaining a healthy school environment! Students can help by washing hands frequently, using a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes, and staying home if sick. Masks are required in GCPS schools and facilities and on school buses.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

**Responding to Lockdowns and Evacuation**

If your student’s school has been placed on lockdown or evacuated, please do not go to the school. Excessive traffic could interfere with law enforcement efforts or emergency response. The school will contact you to let you know how to proceed.

Schools go on lockdown when school officials and local law enforcement authorities determine that conditions outside or inside the school are unsafe. No one may enter or leave the school until the lockdown is lifted. This may delay dismissal times.

- A hard lockdown occurs when conditions inside the school are unsafe. Students and staff remain in the classroom and safety procedures are followed until the lockdown is lifted. For their safety, students should turn off or mute their cellphones as a ringing phone could alert an aggressor.
- A soft lockdown occurs when conditions outside the school are unsafe. Students and staff continue with a normal school day, but stay within the building.

Schools are evacuated when the school environment is unsafe for the students to stay in the building.

For more information about school safety, see the Safety and Security information on the GCPS website (www.gcpsk12.org).

**Inclement Weather**

When inclement weather is predicted, GCPS works with local authorities to monitor current and expected conditions in the area.

- If bad weather is forecast overnight, GCPS officials drive roads and bridges across the county to gauge conditions.
- Unscheduled DLDs and full-day cancellations usually are announced by 6 a.m. Once a decision is made, the district posts the announcement about school closures on the GCPS website, GCPS TV, and the district’s Facebook page and Twitter account. GCPS also notifies metro-Atlanta news outlets and alerts families with a phone call and optional text message via SchoolMessenger. (Families must request the text feature.)

GCPS announces only school closing information. The school system does not issue an announcement when school will be in session as scheduled.

School Safety TIP LINE

Confidential Tip Line

Call or Text 770-822-6513

Help keep your school safe.

If you think or know that someone is carrying a weapon, drugs, or alcohol on school property, call or text the information to the tip line. You do not have to provide your name.

Make sure your student’s school has up-to-date contact information for you.