



What are the “stats” that Greenspire is using to make decisions?

The Greenspire School uses multiple sources of data to make its decisions related to its instructional delivery method.

The sources of data include...

Grand Traverse County Health Department
<http://gtchd.org/2256/COVID-19-DASHBOARD>

Michigan School-Related Outbreak Reporting (updated every Monday at 3 pm)
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173_102480---,00.html

Robert attends weekly Grand Traverse County Health Department meetings with area superintendents every Wednesday at 1:00 pm.

Robert attends weekly GVSU Workgroup meetings with other GVSU chapter school leaders.

Direction and guidance from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Direction and guidance from the Michigan Department of Education

Best practices from other schools in the county, region, state, and country

Analysis of other confirmed and probable cases at other schools in the county, region, and state

Parent, student, faculty/staff, and community feedback

How did the state supreme court decision affect our COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and our COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan?

The COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan was part of an executive order that was overturned by the state supreme court, however since the document was then approved by our board of education, schools have been directed by the state to continue to implement all provisions that were approved. GVSU (the charter authorizer of The Greenspire School) has directed us to follow all protocols that were accepted and approved by the board of education in our COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.

The COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan, allowing schools to utilize five-day per week instruction, hybrid learning or fully remote learning was part of Public Acts 147, 148, and 149 that was passed by the state legislature and signed by the governor. This was not part of the state supreme court's decision. Schools by law, are obligated to follow these “return to learn laws” going forward.

Why have we made these safety changes *when kids don't get COVID-19?*

Individuals between the ages of 0-19 do get COVID. As of Wednesday, October 14th, The Grand Traverse County Health Department reported that 11% of the positive COVID cases involved children between the ages of 0-19.

For the most up to date information and breakdown of positive COVID cases by age, please visit... <http://gtchd.org/2256/COVID-19-DASHBOARD>

For the most up to date information on school-related cases statewide and which ones involve students, please visit... https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173_102480---,00.html. This listed is updated every Monday at 3 pm. As of October 12th, schools are now required to report cases.

Are masks required in schools?

Yes, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued an Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 restricting gathering sizes and requiring face coverings in public spaces, including schools.

What safety protocols are still in place at Greenspire?

The same safety protocols that we started the 2020-2021 school year are still in effect. Masks are required to be worn inside the school building and outside the school building. Phase 5 recommended spacing is still in effect, which keeps our pods to 11-12 students. Common surfaces are wiped down once per day by Robert and Sarah. Students still have 1:1 technology and the sharing of common supplies are limited and if used, disinfected. We have increased our custodial services to five days per week from three days per week in the past. All other protocols are listed in the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan located on our website under the transparency section.

Can we have two groups of students at school, one that wants the current protocols and one that does not?

No, our accepted and approved protocols listed in the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan would not make this possible.

How is feedback from faculty/staff, students and parents used?

Feedback from all stakeholders is collected, organized, and coded by Robert and shared with the staff at weekly staff meetings and team planning sessions. Feedback from the first week of hybrid has already allowed the teachers to create quality extension activities for students who may finish work at home quickly, the resumption of advisories, and more frequent project milestones to measure student progress and growth.

Can't people who are high-risk or live with high-risk family members just stay home?

First, we value the health and safety of all of our faculty/staff, students, and family members in our Greenspire community. The Greenspire community includes faculty/staff members, students, parents, guardians, and other family members who are considered "high risk" and their needs are just as important to us as someone who may not have those same risk factors. As a result, we chose to create the safest possible learning environment for our community.

Part of the vision of The Greenspire School is to “respect all things on earth, whether people, animal, or plant” and Greenspire was founded on the belief of community and global responsibility to each other.

How and when can we return to five day per week instruction?

According to the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan approved by our board of education, it lists certain standards that must be met for the different phases. Details of Phase 4 and Phase 5 are listed below...

Phase 4 - During this phase, the number of new cases and deaths has fallen for a period of time, but overall case levels are still high. Schools will be prepared with response activities continuing to maintain ongoing surveillance and execution of active mitigation measures. Schools should be prepared to implement social distancing measures. Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities should be expected for cleaning and contact tracing purposes. Schools must consider the judgement of the local health department for the sub-region of concern.

Phase 5 - During this phase, new cases and deaths continue to decrease for an additional period of time. At this point, the number of active cases has reached a point where infection from other members of the community is less common. School preparedness and response activities around surveillance and active mitigation continue from Phase 4 with loosening of required safety protocols. Schools should remain prepared to implement social distancing measures. Short-term dismissals and suspensions of extracurricular activities remain possible for cleaning and contact tracing purposes. Schools must consider the judgement of the local health department for the sub-region of concern.

Unfortunately, as of Wednesday, October 14th, the number of cases statewide has increased.

The number of cases regionally has increased.

The number of cases countywide has increased.

Over the past three weeks, the scale used to measure the amount of cases in Grand Traverse County has increased from 1.9 to 2.6 to 3.2.

On Thursday, October 15th, more than seven months after Michigan's first COVID-19 confirmed case, the state set a record for a one-day increase in new cases with 2,030 cases. The previous high was on April 3rd with 1,953.

If cases begin to decline again for a period of time, we will reevaluate opening for five day per week instruction. Right now, with the increase in cases, we are not able to safely relax our safety protocols. As soon as we are able to resume normal programming, we will. The COVID-19 Extended Learning Plan is renewed each month and allows for schools to adjust to the changing conditions of the pandemic.