

# FAQs: Returning to Campus Spring 2021

These are some of our frequently asked questions regarding students returning to campus for optional on-campus activities this spring. If you have a question that is not addressed on this list, please reach out to [Carrie Mar](#), COVID Coordinator.

[En Español](#)   [中文](#)   [عربي](#)

## Logistics

[How do I know if my child has an on-campus opportunity?](#)

[Is this required?](#)

[When can my student start attending class on campus?](#)

[What will my child do if they can't attend the event?](#)

[Can I join for the event? / Can my other children join for the event?](#)

[How will my child get to/from campus?](#)

[Can my child participate if they are already part of another stable cohort?](#)

## COVID Safety & Health Measures

[What if I am concerned about my child contracting COVID, or exposing our household?](#)

[Can my child participate if they are already part of another stable cohort?](#)

[What is the guidance around physical spacing between teachers and students?](#)

[Are Gateway staff vaccinated?](#)

[Does my child have to be vaccinated to attend?](#)

[How can my child get vaccinated?](#)

## Concerns

[What if my child doesn't want to go to campus?](#)

[What if I am concerned about my child contracting COVID, or exposing our household?](#)

[What if I am concerned about the impact on my child's family responsibilities?](#)

[What if I am concerned about the impact on my child's academic performance/schedule?](#)

[What if I am concerned about my child's physical safety en route to/from school?](#)

[What if I am concerned about COVID safety while my child is en route to school?](#)

How do I know if my child has an on-campus opportunity?

To attend an on-campus event, students will be invited by a teacher or staff, and must have a signed health waiver to join. This will be sent to you via ParentSquare.

[Example health permission waiver](#)

Is this required?

No. All on-campus events offered at Gateway MS & HS in Spring 2021 are completely optional.

When can my student start attending class on campus?

We plan to return to full on-campus learning for the 2021-2022 school year, which begins in August.

What will my child do if they can't attend the event?

If the event is for a club or extracurricular group, they will simply skip that meeting. If the event is for academic enrichment, such as Advisory, in-person PE, or Physics Lab, they will be provided an asynchronous assignment to do instead.

Can I join for the event? / Can my other children join for the event?

No. For health and safety reasons, *only* Gateway students can be on campus at this time. Siblings and other family members, including parents/guardians, are not allowed at this time. You are allowed to drop off and pick up your student.

How will my child get to/from campus?

All students must arrive on their own (no transportation can be provided by Gateway). Students can take public transit, walk/bike/skate, or be dropped off via car.

Can my child participate if they are already part of another stable cohort (e.g. Learning Hub, sports team)?

Yes! Students are allowed to be in up to 2 extracurricular groups. This, combined with our spaced-out scheduling, allows students to attend any event they are invited to on campus.

What is the guidance around physical spacing between teachers and students?

SFDPH recommends social distancing of a minimum of 3 feet in school settings, but our events will maintain 6 feet of distance whenever possible. If teachers need to be closer to students (examples: handing a student something; pointing out something on their paper) the interaction will be kept as brief as possible.

In addition, the majority of events will be outdoors, which further reduces risk of transmission.

Are Gateway staff vaccinated?

While we cannot require vaccination of staff, we are encouraging all staff to get vaccinated. Although we cannot disclose medical information, we can report that many of our staff and faculty have been fully vaccinated since becoming eligible for the vaccine in March 2021. Regardless of vaccination status, all staff are required to wear masks and maintain distance from students.

Many students over 16 have begun the process of getting vaccinated now that they are eligible. Again, even if vaccinated, all members of our community are required to wear masks and maintain distance whenever they are on campus.

Does my child have to be vaccinated to attend?

No. We are not requiring vaccination for students. All students, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask and distance from others when on campus.

How can my child get vaccinated?

Youth 16 and older are now eligible to be vaccinated. Find a location [here](#).

Youth 15 and under will need to wait for FDA approval of use in people their age. We will update the community as we learn more about vaccination guidelines for young people 15 and under.

What if my child doesn't want to go to campus?

*My child is nervous/anxious* - Some students are nervous about coming back to school. They might think it is going to be scary, or awkward, or unsafe. Please reassure them that we are following all CDC and SFDPH health guidance to keep them safe.

*My child is feeling disconnected from school* - Some students might feel lethargic or even depressed after so much time at home, and leaving the house for school feels like "too much" to them. These events are designed to be fun, casual, and welcoming, and to help them reconnect with their classmates in a small group setting.

*My child is not mentally/emotionally ready to socialize with classmates yet* - Coming back to school might feel strange, awkward, or stressful. All events are designed to help ease these tensions and make students feel connected again.

Students who have already attended report that while it feels weird to be back on campus for the first few minutes, the events are fun and well worth the time! This is why these events are so important.

What if I am concerned about my child contracting COVID, or exposing members of our household (elderly grandparents, parents, immunocompromised family members, etc.)?

We are following all SFDPH guidelines around health and safety protocols. All participants will be health screened prior to attending, including a temperature check. Students will only be in small groups and all contacts will be traced should a confirmed case of COVID be identified at any point. Studies done in other school reopenings indicate that school is a low-risk activity if masks are worn consistently and distancing is

practiced. However, this activity is entirely optional and your child does not have to attend if you or they are not ready to return to campus.

What if I am concerned about the impact on my child's family responsibilities (such as providing child care, helping out at home, etc.)?

All on-campus activities being offered will last fewer than two hours in an attempt to balance making the trip to school worth the time and minimizing disruption to students' at-home routine. However, this activity is entirely optional and your child does not have to attend if you or they are not ready to return to campus.

What if I am concerned about the impact on my child's academic performance/schedule?

Most on-campus activities being offered are on Mondays (GHS) or Fridays (GMS) or after instructional hours to minimize disruption to in-class time. Students coming for an academic enrichment lesson with their teacher will do this instead of virtual learning that day. For students who need to miss other classes to attend an event, their other teachers will be notified and a plan will be made for extensions or excusing work, just as when we had field trips in the past. Teachers agree that the benefits of learning together and being back on campus are huge, and students will not be penalized for attending another teacher's on-campus learning activities.

What if I am concerned about my child's physical safety en route to/from school?

We recognize that this past year has been scary for many of us beyond just the pandemic, particularly for families of color. In light of recent events, we know that our Black and Asian families in particular have fears around the safety of their loved ones in the world. Many families are choosing to drop their children off directly to/from school. For students who don't have that option, some are finding a "travel buddy" to take public transit or walk with to reach campus. If you have safety concerns and want support making a plan that will feel good to you and your student, please reach out to their teacher or to our COVID Coordinator, [Carrie Mar](#).

What if I am concerned about COVID safety while my child is en route to school?

We understand that commuting to school can raise concerns. If you are not able to personally drop your child off via private car, they can walk/bike/skate, take public transportation, or be transported via someone else's car (such as Lyft/Uber or a taxi). All of these activities require all participants to be masked. Walking or biking to school is safest because your child will be outdoors the entire time, which reduces the risk of transmission. If they take public transit or a ride-share car, there are requirements about distancing, mask-wearing, and having windows open during the ride which reduce risk of transmission.