

GSCS COVID-19 Guidelines

All students and employees should perform symptom and temperature checks prior to coming to school.

COVID Symptoms: Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing, cough, new loss of taste or smell fever, chills, muscle/body aches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, headache, sore throat, congestion/runny nose (unrelated to a chronic health condition).

- If symptoms cannot be attributed to another diagnosis the student or employee will be sent home to be medically assessed by a healthcare provider.
- The student or employee can return to school following sick day exclusion guidelines, **AND** with a school excuse from the health care provider that includes a return to school date. A healthcare provider's signature and date on the Covid-19 Student Screening is also acceptable.
- Student/employee with a **NEGATIVE test must have a note from the Health Care Provider with the return to school date (signature and date on ADPH screening tool is acceptable).**
- It has been at least 24 hours since fever or fever reducing medication and symptoms improvement.
- Additionally, student/employee has not been identified as a close contact of someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

Isolation Procedures for Confirmed Positive COVID Test

Students and Employees testing positive for COVID-19 will isolate at home for 5 days. (To calculate your 5-day isolation period, day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed).

- Isolation can be ended after 5 full days if student/employee is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved (Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
- Student and Employees must wear a mask for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of your 5-day isolation period. If you are unable to wear a mask when around others you should continue to isolate for a full 10 days.

Quarantined-Exposure to Positive COVID-19: (An employee or student identified as a close contact by a healthcare provider or ADPH will follow quarantine guidelines.)

Students or employees that are in one of the following groups **should quarantine:**

- Ages 18 or older and completed recommended vaccine series but have not received a booster shot when eligible.
- Received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the series) over 2 months ago and have not received a booster shot.
- You are not vaccinated or have not completed the vaccine series

Quarantine Procedures

- Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of your exposure is considered day 0. If possible, wear a mask when around others at home.
- For days 6-10 after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19, watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID symptoms.
- If COVID symptoms develop, get tested immediately and isolate until you receive your test results. If you test positive, follow isolation recommendations.
- If you **do not** develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
 - If you test negative, you can leave your home and attend school or work, but you should continue to wear a mask when around others until 10 days after your last close contact to someone with positive COVID-19.
 - If you test positive, you should isolate for at least 5 days from the date of your positive test (if you do not have symptoms). If you develop symptoms isolate for at least 5 days from the date your symptoms began (the date the symptoms started is day 0).
 - If you are unable to get a test 5 days after last close contact with someone with COVID-19, you can leave your home and attend school or work after day 5 if you have been without COVID related symptoms throughout the 5-day period. Wear a mask for 10 days after your date of last close contact when around others.

Quarantine Exceptions (For those identified by a Health Care Provider or Public Health as a close contact)

Students and employee identified a close contact do not need to quarantine if he/she:

- Is over the age of 18 and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters.
- Is 5-17 years old and has completed the primary vaccine series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Has a confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test).

Student or employee must wear a mask around others for 10 days from the date of your last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0).

Student or employee should get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Any student or employee who tests positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms, should follow isolation guidelines.

ADPH Report Card

Schools are required to report suspected and diagnosed COVID-19 cases.

Updated: January 5, 2022

References: Alabama Department of Public Health (1/5/2022)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1/5/2022)