

COVID-19
Policies & Procedures
2021-2022

Updated 09.02.2021



GLENELG COUNTRY SCHOOL COVID-19 POLICIES

COVID-19 POLICY & PROCEDURES

The COVID-19 pandemic requires additional safety measures on the part of the school and its families to keep our campus safe. As we return to school for in-person classes and activities on campus, there are precautions in place to protect our students, faculty, and staff.

During this phase of the pandemic, we continue to implement more stringent oversight and more vigorous implementation of Health Services policies, particularly concerning managing illness on campus.

A tremendous amount of research, time, and thought has gone into our guidelines—including guidance from the CDC and other health authorities. This pandemic is an evolving situation, and we will continue to update our guidelines and share them with the GCS community as quickly as possible as more information becomes available.

DISCLAIMER

COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread by person-to-person contact. The School has implemented reasonable preventative protocols, policies, and procedures designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 on the School's campus, and these will be updated in response to new information. Despite the protocols, policies, and procedures in place to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 on campus, there are inherent risks associated with being on campus. Those who come onto campus for any reason acknowledge and voluntarily assume these risks.

KEEPING THE CAMPUS SAFE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The best way to keep our campus and community safe is to engage in safe behaviors on and off-campus. GCS will provide education on safe practices in different ways throughout the school year.

MASKS

All faculty, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask when indoors. Masks will not be required when outdoors with the exception of arrival and dismissal.

Periodic mask breaks will be provided. If a student feels they need to remove their mask at any time during the day, they will be escorted outdoors to provide relief.

Students who nap (Little Dragons 2 and Little Dragons 3, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten) will not be required to wear a face mask during nap times.

We will continue to assess this requirement based on local statistics and developments throughout the school year.

Unacceptable Masks

Masks with one-way valves or exhalation vents that allow air to be exhaled can result in expelled respiratory droplets. Single-layer face coverings such as neck gaiters are not effective and may even disperse respiratory droplets more than wearing no mask at all. Therefore, gaiters, scarves, bandanas, and masks with valves or vents are not permitted. High-grade face coverings, such as N95 or KN95 masks, are allowed.

Double layered gaiters will be permitted for students in the Primary Building who are having difficulty wearing a mask.

Face Shields

Plastic face shields may be worn in conjunction with, but not in place of, a mask.

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Bringing Masks on Campus

Students must provide their own mask. Students should bring two to three extra face coverings to school if a mask becomes soiled, ripped, or lost. Lower School students should keep additional masks in an adequately labeled Ziploc bag with the student's name on it in their homeroom class. Students are not to touch anyone else's mask, and mask should not be shared with friends.

Face masks are available for purchase at the Dragon Store.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Community Expectations

Three-foot distancing will be observed to the extent possible. Student cohorts will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Sharing of objects or supplies limited when practical.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

Water fountains will not be used. Students may carry a water bottle, refillable at designated water refilling stations.

Lunches will be eaten either outdoors, weather permitting, or socially distanced in classrooms or common areas indoors.

OUTDOOR SPACES

Outdoor spaces will be maximized for academic instruction and support. Younger students are encouraged to make use of a towel or blanket from home to delineate their space.

PERFORMING ARTS

All students/faculty and staff are required to wear a mask.

Band

Students will use masks and bell covers and will rehearse indoors at a three-foot distance.

Choir

Students will sing with masks on, sing indoors at a three-foot distance, and will move spaces at the teacher's discretion every 30 minutes.

Theater

Students will practice and perform with masks on, at a three-foot distance, and use Theater in Woods for select practices and performances (including the fall play).

CLEANING, HYGIENE, AND VENTILATION

Cleaning

Buildings and classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected before school begins each day.

According to the CDC, "The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus." Our cleaning protocols reflect the current guidelines for surface transmission.

Hygiene

Hand sanitizers are located in the entrance way of each building. Hand sanitizer wall-mounts are installed in each classroom and at each utilized building entrance.

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Ventilation

In consultation with Constellation Energy, the Operations department has completed several upgrades to the school's HVAC systems.

In the Primary, Middle, and Upper School buildings, outside air damper settings have been increased to 35% or the maximum possible the system can handle while still conditioning the space. This setting allows additional outside air into the buildings and increases air changeover in rooms throughout the day. Additionally, air handlers and classroom units have upgraded MERV 13 air filters.

In the Lower School's Manor House, where classrooms have independent air units, an adjustment to the amount of outside air units bring in has been completed. The upper sash of windows has been lowered to improve air change out. Some of these rooms are equipped with exhaust fans as well. Other areas are conditioned with an air handler system with upgraded MERV 13 filters. Windows can also be adjusted to increase outside airflow. All rooms in the Manor House that do not have independent air units will have an air purifier equipped with HEPA filters and internal UV lights.

MANAGING ILLNESS ON CAMPUS

We strongly encourage all persons eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination to get vaccinated.

CONTAINING ILLNESS

Students, faculty, and staff not feeling well should not come to campus.

FEVER THRESHOLD

The school's fever threshold is 100.4° F. If any person (student, faculty, or staff) has a temperature of 100.4° F or higher, they must stay home. The student will be sent home if already on campus.

There are times every school year where parents give their child fever-reducing medicine in the morning before going to school knowing their child is sick with a fever with the hopes of that medicine holding the child throughout the day. In many of these cases, the medication wears off, and the temperature spikes. The child goes to the Health Room, and a parent must take the child home. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this student can potentially infect classmates and teachers—the importance of remaining home when ill cannot be emphasized enough.

PICKING UP AN ILL STUDENT

Within 30 minutes of notification of illness, the student must be picked up by a parent, guardian, or designated emergency contact. While this policy has not changed, it will be strictly enforced. Families should identify an emergency contact before the school year begins if a 30-minute pick-up time is not possible by a parent or guardian

ALBUTEROL NEBULIZER TREATMENTS

Albuterol nebulizer treatments are considered aerosol-generating procedures and pose a very high exposure risk due to potentially infectious aerosols sprayed into the air and throughout the room during the treatment. Albuterol nebulizer treatments will be given during emergencies only.

If a student has an asthma flare-up that may require a nebulizer treatment, the student should stay home and not be at school. Albuterol inhalers, with or without a spacer chamber, are still acceptable at school when needed. Inhalers are not aerosol-generating and do not pose a high exposure risk.

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COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

If any person (student, faculty, or staff) presents to the Health Room with any possible symptom of COVID-19, they will be sent home.

For the purposes of this decision, COVID-19 symptoms are any ONE of the following:

- Cough
- Diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever of 100.4° F or higher
- New loss of taste or smell
- New onset of severe headache (especially with fever)
- Sore throat
- Vomiting

For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

DOCTOR'S NOTES

When a student, faculty, or staff member stays home or was sent home as a result of presenting COVID-19 symptoms, proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test or a doctor's note stating symptoms are due to a differing, non-viral diagnosis is required to return to school.

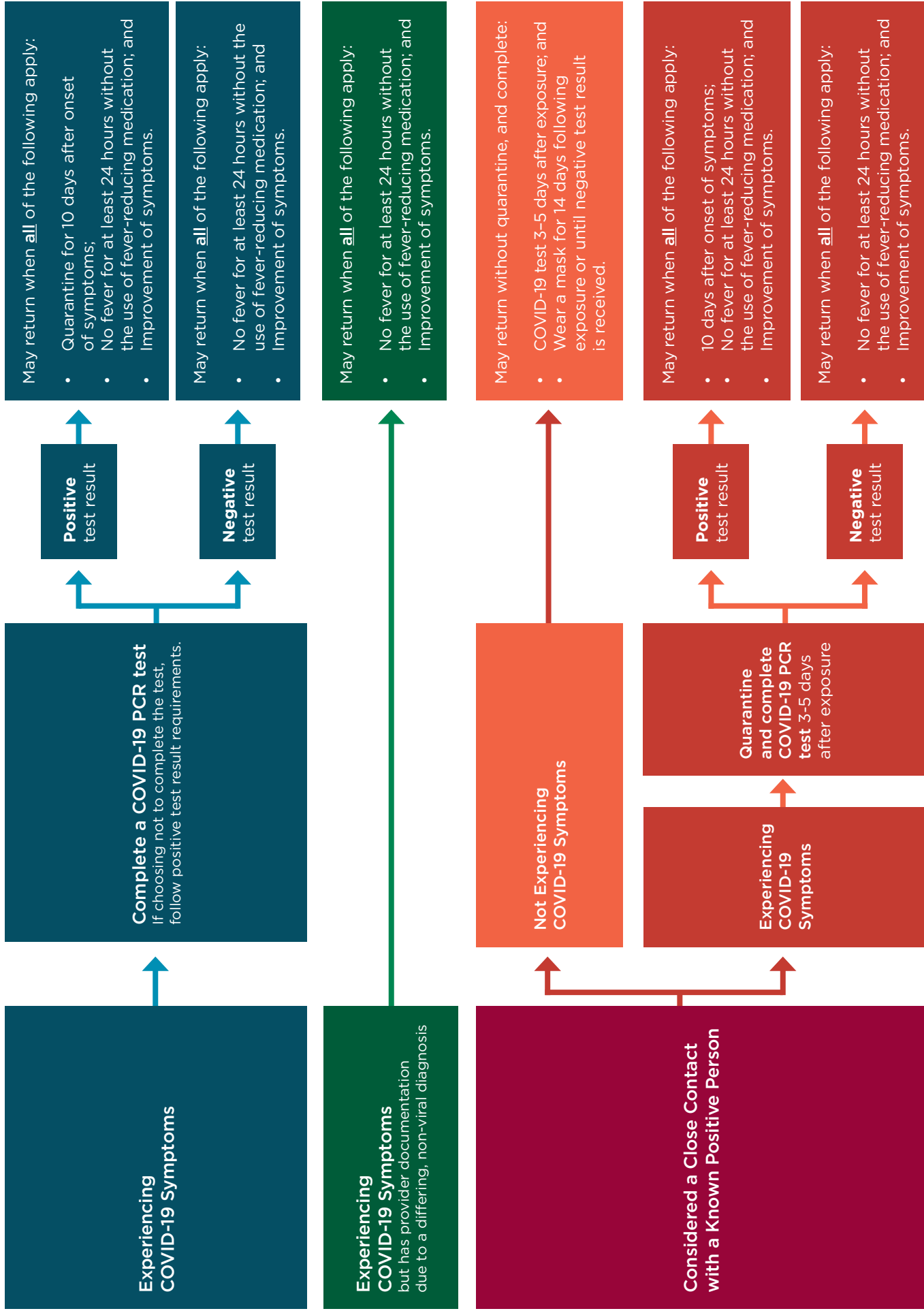
RESPONDING TO COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS

Families must notify GCS as soon as possible if a student receives a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. Faculty and staff are required to do the same. A doctor's note with a clearance of the COVID-19 medical condition will be required to return to school.

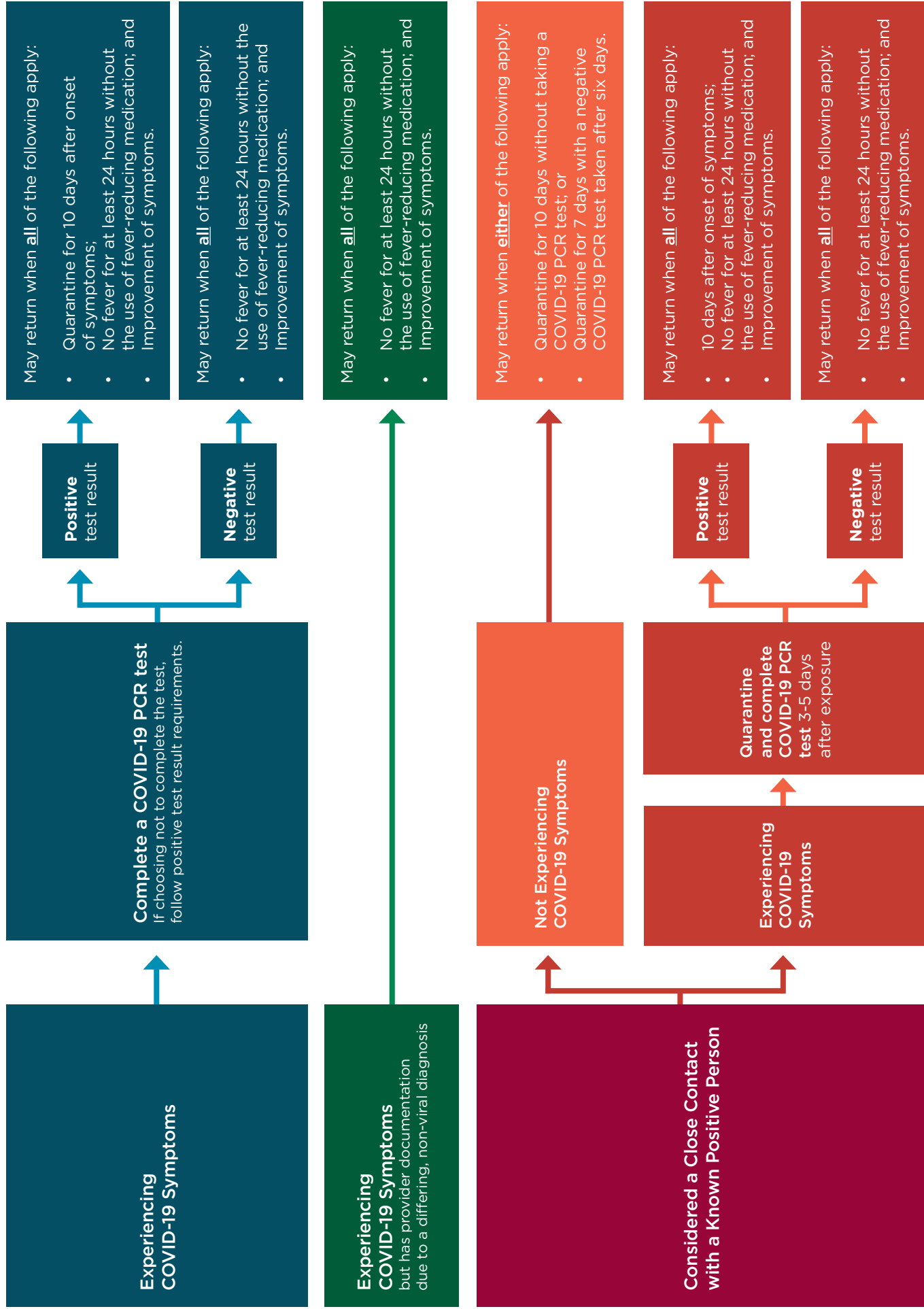
Close Contact

A close contact is defined as being within six feet or less for 15 minutes or more cumulatively in a 24 hour period regardless of wearing masks. In K-12 school indoor classroom settings, close contact excludes students who are within three to six feet of an infected student if both students were wearing masks consistently and correctly, and other K-12 preventions strategies such as increased ventilation and universal and correct mask use were in place in the school setting.

PROTOCOLS FOR THOSE FULLY VACCINATED



PROTOCOLS FOR THOSE NOT VACCINATED



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COVID-19 MEASUREMENTS AND BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks of COVID-19 activity in the surrounding local areas, including case rates, case rates per population, positivity rates, hospitalizations, and guidance from local health authorities, will be monitored. As additional information about transmission and effective COVID-19 treatments are determined, we expect these metrics may be updated. GCS will comply with all directives from local health authorities.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

DOMESTIC TRAVEL Strongly Recommended	Not Vaccinated	Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before travel.	Yes	
Get tested 3-5 days after travel.	Yes	
Self-quarantine for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without a test.	Yes	
Self-monitor for symptoms.	Yes	Yes
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel.	Yes	Yes

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL Strongly Recommended	Not Vaccinated	Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before travel.	Yes	
Mandatory test required before flying to the United States.	Yes	Yes
Get tested 3-5 days after travel.	Yes	Yes
Self-quarantine for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without a test.	Yes	
Self-monitor for symptoms.	Yes	Yes
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel.	Yes	Yes

CONTACT INFORMATION

HEALTH SERVICES TEAM

Our Glenelg Country School health services team will monitor and track cases within the GCS community and monitor symptoms as presented and report cases to the Howard County Health Department.

MaryJo Povall
 Head Nurse/Primary Building
 mpovall@glenelg.org
 410.531.7350 or extension 2603

Kaitlin Woodford
 Nurse/Manor House
 kwoodford@glenelg.org
 410.531.8603 or extension 2108

Lorie St. Cyr
 Nurse/Middle and Upper Schools
 lstcyr@glenelg.org
 410.531.2212 or extension 2212

Our school counselors are available to answer questions and concerns related to mental health and well-being.

Kiki VandenHeuvel
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