



GENESEE COUNTY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

January 15, 2022

Dear GCCS Parents,

The Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) has updated their guidelines based on updates from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). You will find a link to the new documents on your school's website.

Here are the updated changes:

1. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a positive case for **15 minutes or more**. The time of exposure has changed from the previous time of 10 minutes.
2. For schools with universal masking in place, which include all GCCS, the GCHD states that *regardless of vaccination status, students that are universally masked do not need to quarantine or test to remain in school*. If your child is a close contact of a Covid positive individual in a setting in which universal masking is taking place, they may continue to attend school as long as they do not develop any symptoms. You will be notified via email and asked to monitor for symptoms. **This is a reminder of the current practice. No change in this area.**
3. High-risk settings - If your child is exposed to a Covid positive individual in a higher-risk school setting such as lunch, extra-curricular where no masks are worn, your child may need to quarantine. This remains the same. However, the number of days has decreased as described below.
4. Isolation and quarantine days have been decreased from the previous **requirement of 10 days to 5 days**. Important notes concerning the change:
 - May return if no symptoms and is fever free for 24 hours with no medication.
 - Upon return, must wear a tight fitted mask over both mouth and nose for days 6 through 10. It is recommended they wear a KN95, N95, or surgical mask, and not a cloth mask. If the individual is unable or unwilling to wear a mask, they must remain isolated or quarantined for the entire 10 days.



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- They are able to participate in extra-curricular activities to the extent that they can do so while wearing a mask. If they cannot wear a mask (e.g., swimming, wrestling), they cannot participate until day 11.
- The GCHD does recommend (not mandatory) a PCR or rapid Covid test on day 5 of quarantine/isolation with negative results before returning on day 6.
- **If your child is currently quarantined, you will receive an email message with the new return to school date.**

As stated in previous communications, we will continue to monitor the weekly data provided by the GCHD and reevaluate when it is safe to no longer require masks. Until further notice, we will remain requiring masks in our schools.

Until that time, please help us keep our students and staff healthy and in school by keeping your child home if they are not feeling well. Encourage your child to wash their hands frequently, as you monitor for symptoms, and seek medical advice when necessary.

Let us join together in prayer for the health and safety of our entire GCCS family and the community. St. Matthew reminds us to lift our difficulties up in prayer, a reminder I frequently need. Let us refocus our desires to God in prayer.

Have you prayed about it as much as you've talked about it? Matthew 21:22

May God continue to bless your family and our GCCS family.

Respectfully,

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