



COVID-19 Guidance for the 2023-2024 School Year for GREEN Charter Schools

General Recommendations

The following recommendations for the 2023-2024 school year were updated to reflect the increased availability of testing, treatments and vaccines in the treatment and prevention of COVID-19.

- The CDC recommends indoor masking in K-12 schools for ages 2 and older regardless of vaccination status during periods of high COVID-19 hospital admission as well as high levels of community transmission.
- During low to medium community transmission, masking is optional.
- Anyone who chooses to mask regardless of the level of community transmission (i.e., students, teachers, staff, those considered high risk) should be supported in their decision to do so.
- Masking is recommended in nurses' offices and isolation/sick rooms, especially if there is suspicion for COVID and/or the presence of respiratory symptoms.
- Whenever possible, consider practicing social distancing guidelines during periods of medium/high community transmission.

Positive COVID Cases

- **ANYONE** (staff member, teacher, or student) with a positive test must notify the school and **MUST ISOLATE** for **at least 5 days** starting from the date of testing (day 0), regardless of vaccination status.
- If you have no symptoms or symptoms are **significantly** improving and you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication, you can end isolation on day 6.
 - Students can return on day 6 when the above criteria are met and with a parent note stating that symptoms are significantly improved.
 - However, the CDC still recommends masking through day 10 as you can still develop COVID up to 10 days after exposure.
- If any new or worsening symptoms occur, you must re-isolate with day 0 being the day the symptoms began.
- If you had moderate/severe illness or are immunocompromised, the CDC recommends masking through day 10 and consulting with your healthcare provider before ending isolation.

Exposure to COVID

- **Quarantine is no longer recommended.**
 - It is recommended that anyone exposed to COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status should wear a mask.
 - Testing is recommended at least 5 full days after exposure (day 6), even if you do not have symptoms.
 - Continue to monitor for symptoms. If you develop any symptoms, you must isolate and get tested immediately.

Additional Guidance

- If a student or staff member develops symptoms while on school premises, they should wear a mask, be sent home, and get tested.
- If a student or staff member develops symptoms or is ill at home, they should get tested and isolate until results are received.

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever or chills.
 - Worsening cough.
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
 - Fatigue.
 - Muscle or body aches.
 - Headache.
 - New loss of taste or smell.
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- **Students, staff, and teachers can return to school with proof of a negative COVID test or with a diagnosis other than COVID which is related to their signs and symptoms.** However, it is recommended that they wear a mask until symptoms resolve.
 - Practice universal safety precautions. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces.
 - Wash hands frequently. When soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - Cover your cough and sneezes.
 - Practice social distancing (maintaining at least 6 feet between others) whenever possible, especially during periods of high transmission or if considered high-risk.

Reporting

- Per DHEC COVID-19 Outbreak Reporting Guidelines, the school will report to DHEC if a class or cohort of more than 5 students has 20% or more cases within 72 hours.

Recommendations adapted from [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), the CDC operational guidance for K-12 schools as cited on [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and the School and Childcare Exclusion List as cited on [scdhec.gov](https://www.scdhec.gov). Created August 9, 2022 by Dr. Tamara Johnson. Revised August 12, 2022. Second revision August 15, 2022. Third revision August 16, 2022. Fourth revision August 21, 2023.