



AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

INSPIRE PASSION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

August 18, 2021

Dear AGCS Community,

The rise of COVID-19's Delta variant and the CDC's new guidance prompted the need for additional discussion, debate, and evaluation of potential mitigation measures to allow students to return to in-person instruction. Our goal is to have our AGCS students return safely to school, full time, with as little disruption to learning as possible. Our priority is limiting the potential frequency we may need to quarantine/isolate students who would be deemed "close contacts" to a positive or probable COVID-19 individual while at school. On Tuesday, August 17th, the AGCS Board of Trustees discussed and voted to revise our current Health and Safety Plan for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Important Highlights:

- AGCS has and continues to follow the recommendations of the Chester County Health Department (CCHD). According to the CCHD, 75% of those 12 and up have received at least one shot. The most recent CCHD data (released on 8/13/21) indicates that we are currently in the "substantial transmission" phase.
- **School Opening:** The first day of school for the 2021-2022 school year remains **Tuesday, September 7th** (after Labor Day). AGCS will have a full-day, in-person instructional program for all students K-12. We will run our normal instructional schedules and provide breakfast and lunch in school each day. This will allow us to have in-person orientations and prepare students and families for a successful school year.
- **Mitigation:** Avon Grove Charter School will implement the health mitigation strategies that proved successful last year to ensure a safe reopening of our schools, which include:
 - Increased cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting routines.
 - In addition, a substantial amount of resources have been invested in the improved ventilation in our buildings.
 - Families can provide consent for in-school COVID-19 testing if desired. This program offers rapid, point-of-care testing as a mitigation strategy in the fight against COVID-19. In combination with a school's COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan, such testing aims to protect staff and students from exposure to COVID-19 and limit the transmission of COVID-19 on school campuses, school buses, and extracurricular activities hosted on campus. The school nurse will have to obtain permission for any student to be COVID tested at school.
 - AGCS will encourage three feet of social distancing between students to the greatest extent feasible. The school, however, will not be able to maintain this physical distancing at all times.
- **Health Screening:** Parents/guardians will be required to screen their children each day for symptoms before leaving for school. Any student exhibiting symptoms should not come to school, be placed on a bus, or be dropped off at school.



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- **Masking:** We understand the mask conversation is very controversial and can divide parents. We hope this is a temporary conversation with the goal of getting back to pre-covid school days without masks. The AGCS Board received all comments and voted on ***mandatory masks for all students, staff, and visitors until October 1st***, at which time the board will reconvene for further recommendations.
 - **Masking guidelines:** Masking is required on all buses and district transportation as ordered by the CDC. Masks are required by all staff, students, and visitors while indoors, on school field trips, or when using school vehicles. Masking will not be required while students are at recess, transitioning between buildings outside, or participating in active play in athletics. Please contact the school nurse should your child have a medical disability that precludes them from wearing a mask.
 - If providing a mask for your child is a financial hardship or if your child forgets or loses their mask, one will be provided for them.
- **Close Contact/Possible Quarantine:** We will continue to contact trace and call the CCHD for guidance with possible isolations and/or quarantine timeframes. The CDC and CCHD have provided K-12 schools with an “exception” rule that will allow AGCS to ensure that students remain in an in-person learning environment to the greatest extent possible. This exception “excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore well-fitting [masks](#) the entire time” from needing to quarantine.
 - **Attendance:** If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or is considered close contact and is required to quarantine, they will be assigned asynchronous, independent work to complete while at home. Quarantine days will be considered an excused absence and not count against a student’s attendance record.
 - **School Expectations While Quarantined/Isolated:** AGCS does not have an online learning option for the 2012-2022 school year. Students in quarantine will be given asynchronous, independent work to complete. See below for specific guidelines regarding school work during a COVID-19 related quarantine or illness.
 - [Protocol for Continuity of Education](#)

Social and Emotional Wellness:

- Please see the Health and Safety Plan, which outlines how we will be meeting the social-emotional needs of our students.
- We will partner with community agencies to offer a Virtual Parent Training Series focused on student wellness throughout the year. If you have a topic that you would like to see offered, please contact Ryan Taylor, rtaylor@agcharter.org.



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- If your child is experiencing any social-emotional concerns that are interfering with their learning, we urge you to contact the school counselor or complete the “Request for Support” link, which can be found on the homepage of our school website.

[We encourage all AGCS families to visit our website to read our full Health and Safety Plan and other return to school items for the 2021-2022 school year.](#)

We remain diligent in monitoring conditions and taking measures to ensure safety for all. We appreciate and thank you for your ongoing flexibility, understanding, and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Kristen Bishop
CEO/Head of School



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS