



AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

INSPIRE PASSION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

December 30, 2021

Dear AGCS Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you're enjoying your winter break!

I wanted to update you on the current surge and recent revisions to health guidelines. The Omicron variant is more contagious but has less severity in symptoms. The CDC and the CCHD made some changes to the guidelines because the Omicron variant has a shorter incubation period, which is essential for testing and transmission. We hope that the end of January will offer us a better picture of whether or not we are on the downside of this current surge.

Testing Prior to Return to School: It is currently not recommended to test everyone upon return from school. While such testing may offer a sense of security, testing supplies are currently limited due to the national focus to "get tested." We ask our families to remain extra diligent about assessing their children for signs of ANY illness (including a runny nose) and not send them to school. With parental permission, AGCS will continue to conduct symptomatic testing if needed. All students will be excused from school if staying home due to illness or quarantine. School work will be posted on Schoology and accessible for absent students and can be completed while at home if students are feeling well enough to complete their course work. Otherwise, students will be able to complete their make-up work upon their return to school in accordance with standard absence timelines.

Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines: On December 23, 2021, CDC updated its quarantine and isolation guidelines, and the Chester County Health Department agrees with these guidelines. This guidance goes into effect for schools on January 3, 2022 for any individual identified as a close contact or positive on December 24, 2021 or after. See image below.

COVID-19 Testing: We are prioritizing symptomatic testing, close contact testing, and return from quarantine day 5 testing. Additionally, at this time, we are holding off on any test-to-stay considerations. There are two primary reasons for this: (a) the very high incidence rates due to the rapid surge of the Omicron variant will continue to result in mass numbers of individuals requiring testing, and (b) testing kits remain limited (CHOP has confirmed supplies through the end of January). With the current incidence rates, we feel the best value for the test kits is to test students on day 5 of their quarantine when returning to school.

As always, thank you for your continued support of AGCS. Wishing you a happy and healthy new year!

Kristen Bishop



Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines

This guidance goes into effect for schools on January 3, 2022 for any individual identified as a close contact or positive on December 24, 2021 or after.

<p>COVID-19 Like Symptoms</p>	<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get tested for COVID-19 and do not attend school until test results are received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <u>Negative test result:</u> Return to school based on clinical criteria for an alternative diagnosis. If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved. ◦ <u>Positive test result:</u> Follow return to school guidance below. If not tested, assume the individual is positive.
<p>Tested Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)</p>	<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not attend school and isolate at home for 5 days. • If no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days, isolation is complete, and the individual can return to school. • Individuals should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school's current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for 5 additional days. If an individual has a fever, stay home until 24 hours after the fever resolves.
<p>Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 & Fully Vaccinated/Boosted (Close Contact/Quarantine)</p>	<p>If individual:</p> <p>Has been boosted</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual can attend school; no quarantine is required. • Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school's current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for 10 days. • Test on day 5, if possible; if an individual does not have symptoms while waiting for test results, they are permitted to attend school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <u>Negative test result:</u> Continue to attend school and wear a mask until 10 days is complete. ◦ <u>Positive test result:</u> Follow the above guidelines. If an individual develops symptoms during quarantine or upon return to school, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow the above guidelines.



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<p>Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 & NOT Boosted or Vaccinated (Close Contact/Quarantine)</p>	<p>If individual:</p> <p>Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Are <u>not</u> vaccinated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not attend school and quarantine at home for 5 days.• If no symptoms after 5 days, quarantine is complete, and the individual can return to school.• Individual should wear a mask while at school regardless of the school's current masking policy and outside of the home when around others for an additional 5 days.• Test on day 5, if possible; if an individual does not have symptoms while waiting for test results, they are permitted to attend school.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <u>Negative test result</u>: Attend school and wear a mask for an additional 5 days.◦ <u>Positive test result</u>: Follow return to school guidance above. <p>If an individual develops symptoms during quarantine or upon return to school, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow return to school guidance.</p>
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