



Gilmer County Schools

Dr. Brian Ridley, Superintendent

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GCS COVID Update August 20, 2021

NEW DPH GUIDANCE

Parents & Staff,

Georgia's Commissioner and State Health Officer, Dr. Kathleen Toomey, has released new quarantine guidance. Effective Monday, August 23, 2021, the Gilmer County Schools will implement the following changes to our quarantine processes based on new DPH recommendations.

Isolation – Students who test positive for Covid-19 or are symptomatic will be subject to standard quarantine at home for the appropriate number of days as determined by the DPH guidance.

Standard Quarantine - Students who are exposed to a close contact who is positive for Covid-19 will be subject to standard quarantine at home for the appropriate number of days as determined by the DPH guidance.

Modified Quarantine - Students who are exposed to a close contact who is positive for Covid-19 may **choose** to serve their standard quarantine at school for the appropriate number of days as determined by the DPH guidance as long as they agree to wear a mask during their quarantine period. Students in Modified Quarantine will be regularly temperature checked and moved to Standard Quarantine if they become symptomatic or test positive.

If parents choose for their child to serve standard quarantine at home, the student will not be penalized.

*Parents of students currently quarantined may **choose** to send their students back to school to serve their standard quarantine as long as they agree to wear a mask during their quarantine period.*

Please Remember:

- Beginning Monday, August 23rd, masks/face coverings are required for all students on school buses until further notice.
- Vaccinated students will **NOT** be quarantined following the 10th day after full vaccination.
- An exposed person with a documented Covid Positive within the last 90 days will NOT be quarantined.
- Students who are masked during their exposure will NOT be quarantined.

These changes supersede all previously released guidance.

We understand the continually changing nature of DPH and CDC guidance is confusing. We sincerely appreciate your flexibility and cooperation in our efforts to keep our schools open and our students safe.

If you have additional questions, please contact our local Department of Public Health or the nurse at your child's school.

Thank you,

Dr. Brian Ridley
Superintendent,
Gilmer County Schools

Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day!