

Gouverneur Central School District
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Superintendent of Schools

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January 21, 2022

Dear District Families:

As you most likely are aware, health and safety guidance from the state and local health departments related to COVID-19 continues to evolve. As always, we remain committed to keeping our students in school, while providing a safe learning environment for all. We also remain committed to providing staff and families with clear, updated information on the latest guidance as it relates to COVID-19 testing, quarantine and isolation.

In accordance with the updated guidelines, the Gouverneur Central School District will no longer be conducting contact tracing for most of our known positive cases. We will still be reporting positive cases to the New York State Department of Health portal on a daily basis and encourage parents to check our numbers at the following link. [NY State COVID Report Card](#).

There may be an occasion, in the event of a positive cluster or high-risk exposure when the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department may ask the school district to conduct contact tracing. If this becomes necessary, our school nurses will contact families by phone as they have in the past.

New York State is now encouraging individuals to oversee their own COVID-19 quarantines. If it is determined at home that a student meets close contact parameters from a family member or other contact that will require the student to enter a quarantine period, we ask that you contact your child's school nurse to provide the dates of quarantine. This information will then be passed along to the appropriate building principal.

We will continue to notify impacted staff and families if we learn about a positive case. This will involve a general notification alerting staff and families that there was a positive case in a particular classroom or location. This type of notification will ask staff and families to monitor for symptoms but will not necessarily result in anyone being identified as a close contact and

excluded from school. We encourage you to visit our district website for additional information regarding the updated guidelines for exclusion from school and school-related events.

Please be advised that all positive test results need to be reported immediately to your child's school nurse as positive cases are still subject to isolation protocols.

One of the keys to ensuring the success of this new approach is rigorous symptom monitoring. Given the large number of positive cases in our region, the safest assumption is that we are all exposed on a regular basis and as such should be mindful of any COVID associated symptom.

The updated guidance shared last week regarding isolation and quarantine protocols including the shortened time frames remain in effect. The linked chart is very helpful in understanding the new protocols: [Quarantine/Isolation Protocols](#).

We are hopeful that this new approach strikes a balance of keeping our students in school while staying committed to the overall health and safety of our students and school community. Please feel free to contact any administrative or health office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn L. Kelly