

# COVID-19 Case Reporting and Communication

*With in-person classes beginning, Gwinnett County Public Schools wants to be sure families know where to find information about COVID-19 cases in Gwinnett County and in the school district.*

## **I'm looking for information about COVID-19. What's my best resource for learning how to prevent the spread, how to get tested, and how many cases are in the community?**

Visit the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale Health Department website (<https://www.gnrhealth.com/covid-19-info/>).

## **Where can I learn more about COVID-19 cases and exposure in the school setting?**

As Gwinnett County Public Schools welcomes students back to their classrooms, district leaders are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Gwinnett County. Processes are in place for tracking any cases in which a student or adult in a school is affected by the virus. We will follow the latest guidance from health officials in determining which individuals need to be quarantined or otherwise excluded from school or work in order to protect them and others in the school setting.



To keep families and employees informed, we are providing information every school day about the number of positive cases, probable cases, and close contacts. This is reported by school. The daily report includes the number of new cases as well as the number of total active cases based on the expected return dates of those affected. (The report does not reflect those who are cleared medically to return to school/work before that expected date, or those who are out beyond their expected return date. Information about when an individual actually returns is tracked manually at the school and is not captured in this report.)

In addition, families are encouraged to check out GCPS' online [Back-to-School Hub](#) that includes information for digital learners as well as those attending class in person. The hub includes a wide range of topics, from athletics and the clinic to instructional resources and counseling.

## **What is the process when someone at the school tests positive or is diagnosed with COVID-19? What information will families receive?**

Families are responsible for notifying their child's school immediately if a student tests positive or is diagnosed with COVID-19 and the student should be kept at home. In addition, should a student become ill at school, steps will be taken to isolate the ill child and notify the parents of the student's illness. Following is the identification and notification process for ill students and those with whom they have close contact.

- **Track and Report Cases**— Each school has a trained Health Response Team (HRT). Members of the HRT enter information about the positive case into the district's secure tracking tool. This information is reported to the Gwinnett County Health Department as required.
- **Notify Parents/Guardians and Staff**— If the student who tested positive had been at school, the school's HRT identifies and contacts anyone who has been in close contact. The CDC considers a close contact to be anyone who has been within 6 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or longer. \*Close contacts who have been fully vaccinated or who have had a COVID-19 infection within the last three months or for students in situations where both the close contact and the ill person were masked appropriately do not need to quarantine. Close contacts who need to quarantine—both students and staff members—will be provided with information/recommendations from the health department, including when students and staff members may return to school and work. Notification also will be sent to families of students in the class or who ride the same bus with the ill person—even if their child doesn't have to quarantine— alerting them to the case. This notification letter will be sent by SchoolMessenger.
- **Report to the Community**— In addition to sharing information with the close contacts and individuals in an affected classroom or bus, the district posts the number of positive cases, suspected cases, and close contacts, by school, on the GCPS [website](#) every school day.

