

COVID-19 Case Reporting and Communication

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?

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 about the number of positive cases, probable cases, and close contacts, reported by school. Families can monitor conditions at their child's school and within the school district by reviewing our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#), which is updated daily on school days. 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 [COVID-19 Information Hub](#) that includes information for those attending class in person as well as digital learners. The hub includes a wide range of topics related to health and safety as well as information on school nutrition, transportation, athletics, 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, following the district's isolation protocol. 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. Students and staff members who test positive for COVID-19 (or who are noted as probable cases) will be expected to isolate at home to prevent the spread of illness, based on guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH).
- **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. GCPS makes decisions based on guidance from DPH and CDC regarding quarantine of individuals exposed to someone with COVID-19, including both in-school and out-of-school exposures. Quarantine requirements vary based on the exposed individual's vaccination status and masking at the time of exposure at school. (Learn more about isolation and quarantine protocols in the [COVID-19 Information Hub](#).) 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 GCPS' online [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) every school day.

