



October 6, 2020

To our Gahanna-Jefferson families,

We are very excited to have students returning to our buildings and wanted to share important health and safety details to help with our transition back to the buildings. Our business operations and facilities teams are delivering on all of the health and safety guidelines recommended by state and local health officials, and we have many precautions in place for the safety of our staff and students.

There are numerous things you should know and prepare to do. We have a dedicated [Return to School Health and Safety Information](#) page on our district website that outlines safety procedures for students and families as well as districtwide health and safety protocols implemented by GJPS. In addition, more information and resources about COVID-19 can be found on the [Gahanna School Nurses website](#).

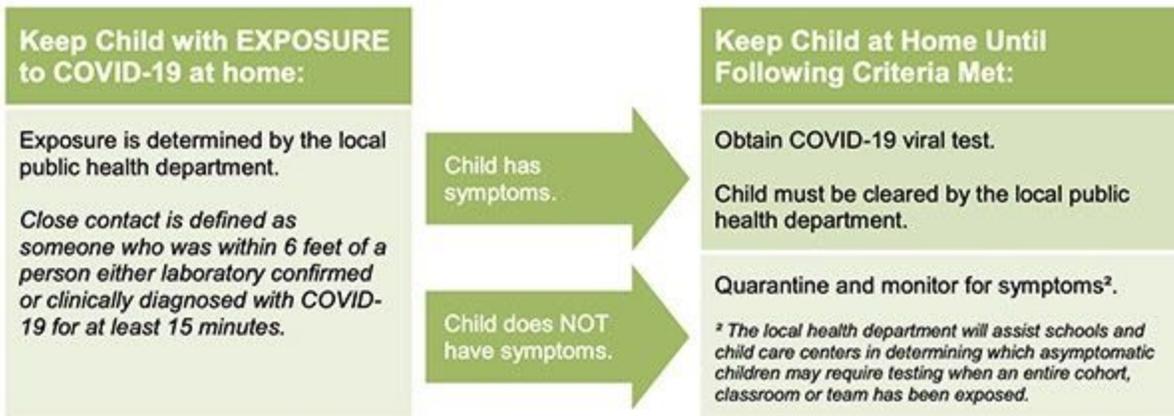
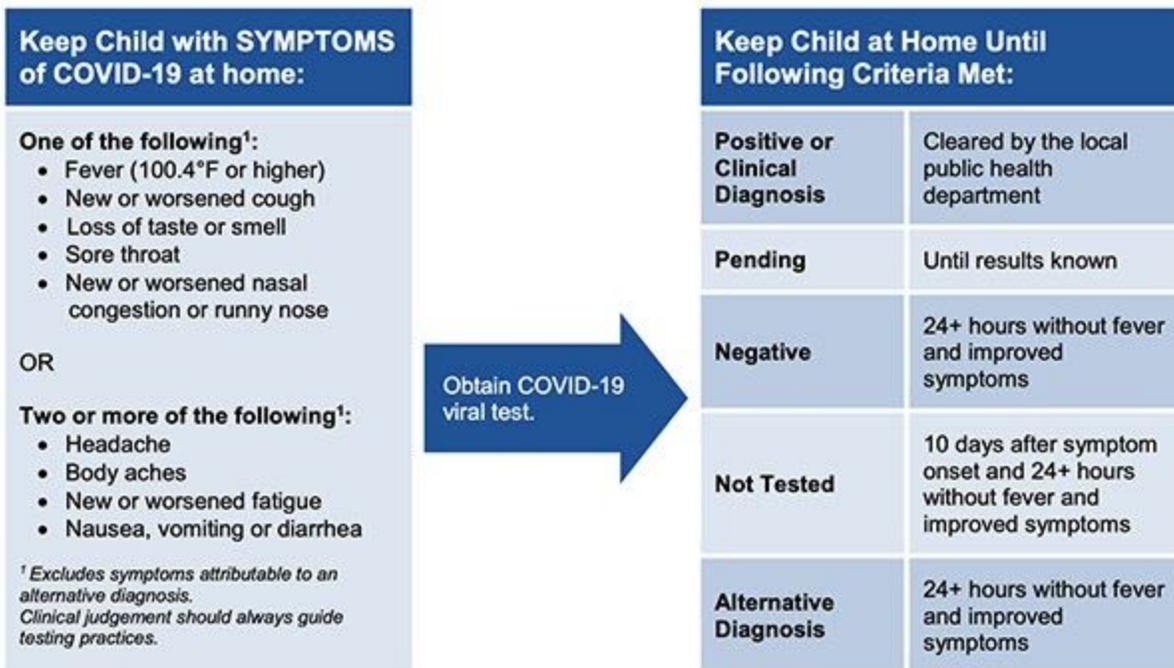
We have highlighted a few areas below that we think are particularly important for you to know before your student returns to our buildings.

DAILY SYMPTOM CHECK

Families are **required to check students' temperatures each day and must follow the guidelines outlined in the chart below at all times.** School staff will monitor students regularly throughout the school day; however, it is critical that students stay home if they are experiencing symptoms.

In the event a student develops a temperature or exhibits COVID-19 symptoms he/she will be separated from other staff/students and the parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student immediately. Please note, students will not be permitted to ride the bus home if they have symptoms.

Individuals do not need to stay home or complete a 14-day quarantine if they had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months, have recovered and remain without symptoms.



If your student has been diagnosed by a medical professional with a condition that causes symptoms that are similar to COVID-19 symptoms, you may submit a letter from your doctor with the following information for the school to keep on file. If your student develops the symptoms stated in the doctor letter while at school, he/she will be permitted to stay at school as long as there are no additional symptoms present. If the student presents with symptoms NOT listed on the medical letter, he/she will be assessed and possibly sent home in accordance with the district handbook guidelines.

The following information must be provided in the letter from your medical provider:

- Student Name
- Diagnosis
- Typical symptoms exhibited by this student from this condition
- Time of year this student normally exhibits symptoms from

MASKS

ALL students in grades K-12 must wear a mask while inside any GJPS building and while riding the bus. While not required, it is recommended that our preschoolers wear masks as well. Per guidance from Franklin County Public Health, gaiters are not permitted as a stand-alone face covering at this time. Mask breaks for students will be built into the day as appropriate.

For more information about protective facial coverings, please consult the GJPS [Facial Covering Policy](#).

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

All classrooms and buildings have been fully stocked with PPE across the district. Each classroom has the following items that will be replenished as needed throughout the year.

- Hand sanitizer (students are welcome to bring their own)
- Disinfectant surface spray
- Aerosol disinfectant spray
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant wipes

In addition, the following PPE is available for use in every building as needed and will be replenished throughout the year:

- Masks (available for staff and students as needed)
- Gloves
- Face shields
- Goggles
- Gowns
- Plexiglass dividers will be used throughout our buildings in small offices, on student tables and in other spaces as requested by staff.

COVID-19 CASE INFORMATION

The district has identified a COVID-19 Coordinator who will monitor and support all COVID related screening, documentation and reporting in collaboration with each building school nurse.

Parents/staff should notify the school office/nurse AND Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) within 24 hours if someone in their family has tested positive or received a clinical diagnosis for COVID-19.

Within 24 hours of receiving notification of a confirmed case, the district will notify building parents/guardians in writing with information about the positive case (no protected health information will be shared). The District will also provide notification and reported [data on confirmed COVID-19 cases](#) within the district on a weekly basis which can be found on our website under Health Services and on our Return to Learn page.

FCPH will work with the district to notify and implement quarantine protocols as appropriate.

- All parents in a classroom/building will be notified if a staff member/student tests positive.
- A 14-day quarantine will be implemented for any individuals who had close contact with an infected individual up to 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms.
- A close contact is anyone who was within **6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 cumulative minutes (with or without a mask) or any individual engaging in a contact sport for any amount of time.**
- A contact must be quarantined for 14 days after the last/most recent contact with the case when the case was infectious. **Test results, whether negative viral test or positive antibody test, cannot shorten the 14 days.**

Further, any closure of a classroom or building due to positive COVID-19 cases will be evaluated by the district on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with Franklin County Public Health.

As we welcome our students and staff back to our buildings, we want to do so in the safest way possible and to provide reassurance about our health and safety practices. We are committed to sharing information and being responsive, while remaining fully in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Thank you for reviewing the important information and for supporting these health and safety protocols to keep our GJPS community safe.

Sincerely,

Steve Barrett
Superintendent