GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COVID-19 Protocols and Procedures Update
January 2022

As we begin the spring semester, the Coronavirus continues to be a frustrating reality. Due to the fact that there has been an increase in COVID positivity in Gadsden County, Gadsden County School District will continue to collaborate with the Health Department to keep our school communities as safe as possible.

Health Department Support:

The Health Department will provide COVID specific staff at each school site until the positivity rate decreases to an acceptable level. Once the rate decreases, Health Department staff will be strategically placed on select school campuses to assist with COVID related issues. COVID health support staff should be located in the waiting room established for students exhibiting COVID symptoms.

COVID health support staff will make available to students (and staff) exhibiting COVID symptoms rapid testing and will provide guidance to parents/guardians picking up students with COVID symptoms. Students must have their parent or guardian present to sign the permission slip to receive a COVID test. The benefits of this support are 1) the test does not just test for COVID but other respiratory diseases as well (e.g. flu and RSV); 2) parents will not have to take their student to a different location to test; and 3) the Health Department can provide test results by the evening the test is administered.

Required Protocols Due to Changes in CDC and State Health Department Guidelines

In the State of Florida, the school COVID safety protocols and procedures are slightly different from protocols and guides for the general public. Below are the protocols and procedures for Gadsden County Schools, which are based on the guidelines the Health Department received from the State for schools.

Positive COVID Test

- Positive COVID tests must be reported to the school principal or immediate supervisor.
- School principals and district supervisors must follow the COVID reporting procedures we already have in place for reporting positive COVID tests.
- All individuals with positive COVID tests must remain in isolation for 10 days.

COVID Exposure

- Individuals exposed to COVID and do not have COVID symptoms may return to work and/or school but must wear a face covering.
- All individuals exposed to COVID in schools and district work environments will be notified and advised to contact their health care provider immediately for further evaluation and testing.

Working Together to Keep Our Schools Safe and Open

- Stay home if you are sick. This is for your benefit and the benefit of others.
- Monitor students for COVID like signs and symptoms. Students with COVID like signs and symptoms should be sent to the COVID waiting room for parent notification and pickup. At which time they, along with their parent or guardian, will receive medical support from Health Department staff.
- Be diligent with sending COVID exposure letters home with students who have been exposed to the COVID virus at school.

COVID Signs and Symptoms

FEVER OR CHILLS   COUGH   SHORTNESS OF BREATH   DIFFICULTY BREATHING   FATIGUE   MUSCLE OR BODY ACHES   HEADACHE   LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL   SORE THROAT   CONGESTION   RUNNY NOSE   NAUSEA   VOMITING   DIARRAHEA

First Line of COVID Defense

♠ Vaccinations   ♠ Social Distancing   ♠ Face Covering   ♠ Frequent Handwashing