

# Department of Education Grainger County

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Dr. James Atkins, Director

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is our goal to provide the safest, healthiest learning environment for our students. With the presence of the Coronavirus (Covid-19 virus), the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. With this, we must be vigilant in our health screenings and our responses. Any student or staff member that presents with symptoms of Covid-19 will be sent home. These symptoms include:

#### High-Risk Symptoms

- Fever (temperature of 100.4 or greater)
- Chills
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

#### Low-Risk Symptoms

- Fatigue
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Congestion or Runny Nose

(Current symptoms listed per CDC on 8/19/20 & TDOH 8/22/20. This list does NOT include all possible symptoms.)

Students and staff members should not come to school if they experience COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been in close contact (within 6 feet for 10 minutes or greater) with someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed COVID-19 case. In any of these instances, please contact school officials immediately. If unable to attend school, your child can continue classes via the virtual platform during this time. Please contact your child's school for additional information.

You can also assist us by completing a student daily self-check before your child boards the bus each day:

- Keep your student home if they are sick.
- Families are encouraged to screen students' temperatures (without Tylenol, Motrin, etc. within last 24 hours) & other COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at school. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater &/or complaining of any COVID-19 symptoms should stay home.
- Remind your student to wash their hands regularly.
- Remind your student to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Encourage your student to use hand sanitizer stations available in each school.
- Encourage your child to socially distance where feasible and practical in the school setting.
- Encourage your student to only use their own supplies and materials.
- Face coverings or masks for students (in grades PreK-12) and staff will be required on buses and all commons areas such as the hallways, cafeteria, gym entrance, etc., unless medically contraindicated. The masks will continue to be recommended but not required for most classroom activities. However, masks will be required in classrooms if small group activities are taking place requiring students and teachers to be near each other or to implement ADA recommendations. Masks will be provided.
- If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please keep your child at home and you are encouraged to contact your child's primary care physician:
  - Has your child been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
  - Is your child experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or stomach symptoms?

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(Revised 8.31.2020)

- Has your child had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Has your child had new loss of taste or smell?
- Has your child had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- Explain to your student to notify his or her teacher if they begin to feel sick while at school and to visit the school nurse.

In accordance with CDC, TN Department of Health, & TN Department of Education guidelines, any individual sent home with COVID -19 sign(s) or symptom(s) OR has been diagnosed with COVID-19, can **NOT** return to school until one of the following conditions are met.

- **Has your child experienced ONLY one low-risk symptom & has been 24 hours after improvement of symptom?**
- **Does the student who was ill with symptoms of COVID-19 have written documentation from their medical provider confirming their illness is not due to COVID-19 because another explanation was identified?** If so, the individual may return to school at the direction of the medical provider if they have been without fever (without use of fever-reducing medications) for at least 24 hours and symptoms have been improving. Examples of acceptable diagnoses would include fever due to urinary tract infection, strep throat confirmed by a positive strep test, rash from poison ivy, etc. Diagnoses of respiratory and viral conditions such as upper respiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia, pharyngitis without positive strep test, seasonal allergies, allergic rhinitis, viral illness, etc., DO NOT exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19 and is not adequate to authorize return to school unless another criterion is met.) **Individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 without an acceptable alternative diagnosis are treated as infected and are to isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms AND have resolution of fever (without fever-reducing medications) AND improvement of symptoms for at least 24 hours before returning to school unless the next criterion (listed below) is met.** Written physician diagnosis MUST be presented to your child's school nurse.
- **Has the student been well for at least 24 hours (after complaints of COVID-19 symptoms) AND has documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR test after symptom onset?** (Results of tests that precede the dates of the most recent absence are not acceptable, nor are results of antibody testing.). Student must be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. This is the only way an individual can shorten the required 10-day isolation period for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Please present documentation of the negative test to your child's school.
- **In the case of a student with any COVID-19 symptoms but did not obtain testing during this illness and has no confirmed alternative diagnosis, did the individual complete isolation for a minimum of 10 days AND have resolution of fever (without fever reducing medications) AND improvement in COVID-19 symptoms for at least 24 hours?**
- **Did the student quarantine for 14 days due to exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19?** If the student has remained without symptoms and has completed the 14-day quarantine period, the student may return to school. Note that household contacts of a confirmed/probable case may be required to quarantine for a longer period, per CDC guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-aresick/quarantine.html>. If symptoms developed during the quarantine period, the individual must complete an additional isolation period.
- **Did the student have a positive COVID-19 PCR test (with or without symptoms) and complete isolation for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms (or the date of the positive test, if not experiencing symptoms) AND have resolution of fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in COVID-19 symptoms for at least 24 hours?** If so, the individual may return to school. No medical evaluation or proof of negative COVID-19 test is required. Note: individuals who were severely ill with COVID-19 or who are immunocompromised may be required to isolate for up to 20 days per CDC guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

If there is an instance on campus that might pose a threat of exposure to COVID-19, families and staff will be notified while maintaining confidentiality. A decision will be made, in consultation with Grainger County Health Department, regarding school(s) closure which could range from a single classroom to a district closure. If a school(s) are closed, students and staff will be notified immediately.

It is our goal to provide the healthiest, safest learning environment for all students. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our students, staff, and families safe. If you have any questions, concerns, etc., please feel free to contact your child's school.

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