# COVID RESPONSE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS

Revised January 25, 2022





## **Table of Contents**

Table of Contents1
Introduction
COVID-19 Notification Protocol
What to Do if Table4
Student Protocol Flowchart5
Covid-19 Principal/Teacher Checklist6
What is Contact Tracing7-8
School Status Contact Tracing Instructions9
Appendix10
Student Reporting Form11
Letter 1 Parent Notification for Student with COVID-19 in School Setting12
Letter 2 Parent Notification for Close Contacts to Positive COVID-19 Case13
Letter 3 Parent Notification for Student with COVID-19 Symptoms in School Setting
Letter 4 Parent Notification of Possible Exposure to a Positive COVID-19 Case15
Letter 5 Parent General Information16-18
Contact Information19



## Introduction

The GPSD has created these procedures to assist families and staff as we prepare for in person learning. While no public entity can ensure the absence of COVID-19 in its buildings and in its activities, the GPSD is working diligently to reduce the impact of COVID-19 (as feasible). These procedures are in place to protect the well-being of students and staff, by identifying and isolating suspected cases of COVID-19 and possible close contacts. The guidelines referenced are based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH). These procedures are fluid as the situation with COVID-19 changes from day to day. Regular updates will be made to these procedures based on information provided by the CDC, MSDH, and applicable federal, state and local agencies.

# **GPSD COVID-19 Notification Protocol**

Step 1

Student Positive/Exhibiting Symptoms

Step 3 Staff/Teacher Notifies Principal Principal/Designee notifies Superintendent's Office and Mrs. C. Taylor

> Step 5 Run the school status contact tracing form (Secondary)

Step 2 Send sick student to isolation room for pickup (contact parent accordingly)

Step 4 Teacher/Principal/Designee completes **Reporting Form** 

Step 6 Principal/Designee submits reporting form, seating chart and school status contact tracing form to designated email:

covid@gpsdk12.com

Step 7 Principal will contact Covid Coordinator/ School Nurse for guidance (notification to students, parents) School Status phone calls & letter

Step 9

Principal/designee will tag student(s) appropriately in school status (quarantine tracking)

send Staff Notification Letter

8.19.2021

Step 8 Principal will email staff

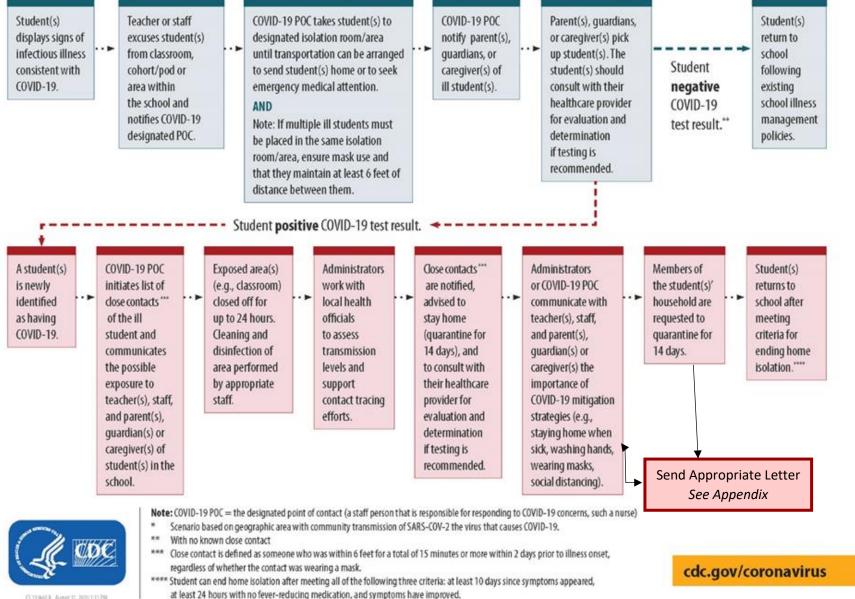
Step 10 Contact Maintenance for

cleaning and sanitizing and

out

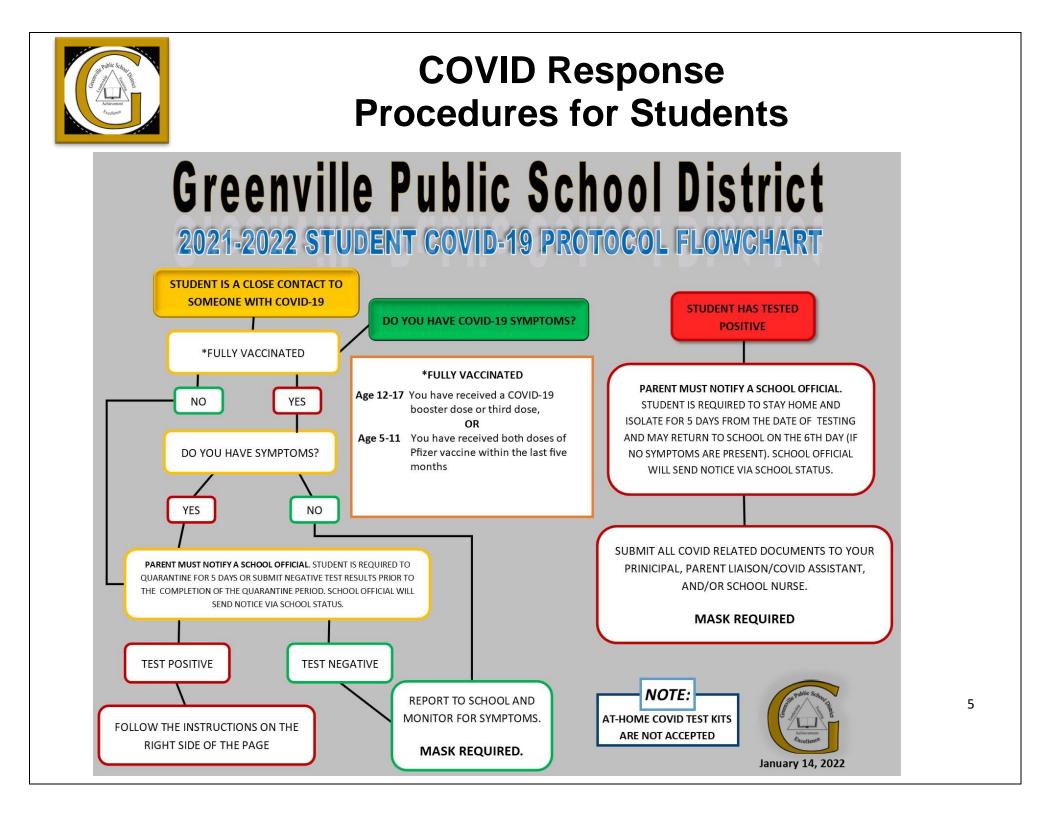
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## WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL OR REPORTS A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS



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G319667A August 31, 2029 1 11 PB



#### Principal/Teacher COVID-19 Checklist

As an educator, what do I do if **a student or parent discloses** they either tested positive for COVID-19, resides with someone who tested positive, or has been *within six feet or less* of someone who tested positive for longer than 15 minutes?

#### 1. DISCUSSION WITH PARENT OR STUDENT:

- ☐ If the student is on campus, discretely separate the student from others and contact the parent/guardian immediately. If not on campus, advise the parent to keep the student at home.
- Ask the parent or student to identify 1) any persons in our school community with whom they had contact *within six feet or less,* for longer than 15 minutes, with/without the use of a mask *within two days before the onset of symptoms or positive COVID test*, 2) any areas of campus they visited for longer than 15 minutes during that time, 3) were they and the person with whom they had contact wearing a mask or face covering. This information should be reported on the Teacher Reporting Form.
- Complete Student Reporting Form (along with seating chart if applicable)
- Convey empathy but **do not provide medical advice**.
- ☐ If the student has not already sought medical care, refer them to their physician for questions, including guidance on treatment and preventive measures to minimize the risk of infection to others. Again, it is important to convey empathy but **do not provide medical advice**.

#### 2. ALERT YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISOR AND THE COVID-19 RESPONSE COORDINATOR/LEAD NURSE AND COMPLETE THE LISTED PROCEDURES

- The **Teacher/Principal** should complete (**in its entirety**) and Email the Student Reporting Form to <u>covid@gpsdk12.com</u> as soon as possible to trigger all notifications
- The Principal should contact the School Nurse or District COVID-19 Coordinator/Lead Nurse (Nurse Joyce Little 662-379-0698 jlittle@gpsdk12.com) to ask clarifying questions regarding COVID-19 quarantine as it relates to CDC Guidelines
- Refer to the COVID-19 Contact Tracing document. Determine who will need to be alerted within the building and outside of the building (district staff etc. per Close Contacts identified) while protecting the confidentiality of the student. The School Nurse will assist with contact tracing through school status
- ☐ If the student is a face-to-face student, teachers must contact parents to distribute Learn-at-home packets or prepare for virtual learning.
- ☐ The **Principal** should notify everyone in his/her department/building via notification letter informing them of the Positive Case or Possible Exposure Case within 24 hours or ASAP. Letter should be copied to <u>covid@gpsdk12.com</u>
- The **Principal** should follow-up with staff to ensure that the proper documentation is provided to confirm COVID-19 status and leave.

#### 3. CONTACT MAINTENANCE/FACILITIES

- Contact Shirley Ford, Assistant Director of Maintenance, either by email (<u>sford@gpsdk12.com</u> and <u>maintenance@gpsdk12.com</u>) or at 662-334-7150 or Michael Banks (<u>mbanks@gpsdk12.com</u>) 662-873-7564. Please be sure to complete the requested information per the **Student Reporting Form**
- □ In partnership with Maintenance, identify areas to be cleaned and disinfected (notate on the **Student Reporting Form**) and schedule the time and date for cleaning and disinfecting. In consultation with Mr. Banks, determine if the space(s) will need to be closed off and post the necessary signage (i.e. "Do Not Enter", "Closed"). Make sure that posting of signs do not lead to the identification of staff who have tested positive as confidentiality is mandatory. If locking the door would be sufficient to prevent entry, then that should take place in lieu of posting signage.



# What is Contact Tracing, in General?

According to CDC Guidelines, contact tracing should begin when a new positive case of COVID-19 exists. The patient identifies contacts with whom they've had contact that could lead to a potential spread of the virus. Contacts are then notified and tested or quarantined, if necessary. Continued follow-up ensures the spread is minimized.

# In order to prevent the spread or COVID-19, contact tracing for students will be done using two methods.

## Method #1:

- Teachers will maintain a seating chart daily with students' exact locations.
- Each day, seating charts should be turned into the office or kept in a binder in the classroom for quick access if a positive or symptomatic student case arise.
- Teachers will also keep a log of students leaving their classroom and their exact destination.

## Method #2:

Once a positive or symptomatic case arise, the principal and or school nurse will print contact tracing report from SchoolStatus.



# What is Contact Tracing, in SchoolStatus?

In the event of a student testing positive for or suspected of having COVID-19, student contact tracing allows any user with school or district administrator rights to generate a single report that lists:

- The infected student's current schedule
- The names of teachers for each course in the section
- The names and ID numbers of any students who are also in the same

sections



# Other Considerations:

### LET'S TRACE

If a student is absent, the teacher or principal's designee will determine the nature of the absence. If the absence is COVID related, the school will have to evaluate the situation asking the following questions:

- When was the last time the student was on campus?
- With whom did that student come in close contact that the SchoolStatus report may not list? (ex. Student from another class, bathroom break, etc.)
- Was the student in a single cohort in one classroom throughout the entire school day?
- Was the student mixing with other people or classrooms?
- Was there intermixing between groups or classrooms?
- How were the classrooms set up? (desk separation and spacing) Is there a seating chart?
- Did seating change for special instruction, center time or project time?

See School Status contact tracing instructions diagrams on page 8.

### #TeamGPSD

For all positive and probable cases, teachers and principals must complete the Teacher Reporting Form and submit it to: <u>covid@gpsdk12.com</u>



Contact Tracing, in SchoolStatus?

From the <u>Student Card</u>, you'll find a new button on the Overview tab that houses a student's schedule.

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When you click the red button, a CSV will download, displaying all students who share a class with the student in question.

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School administrators can instantly know each student's name who shares a class with the student who is suspected of being infected and can begin isolating students who may also be affected. Using the communication tools built into SchoolStatus, school administrators can also call or text parents to let them know best practices and next steps in the process of containing a potential outbreak. As always, this information is logged and recorded within SchoolStatus.



# Appendix

Student Reporting Form (also see district website) https://www.gvillepublicschooldistrict.com/school-nurses

(Please copy and paste all letters on school letterhead)

Letter 1 Parent Notification for Student with COVID-19 in the School Setting

Letter 2 Parent Notification for Close Contacts to Positive COVID-19 Case

Letter 3 Parent Notification for Student with COVID-19 Symptoms in School Setting (This letter is only for the student with the symptoms)

Letter 4 Parent Notification of a Possible Exposure to a Positive COVID-19 Case

Letter 5 General Information Letter



\*\*This form should be completed in its <mark>entirety</mark> as soon as possible to ensure the safety of your students and staff

## **COVID-19 Reporting Form for Student**

Date:School/Site:	Reported by:							
Name of reported COVID-19 Student:	Grade							
Parent/Guardian Name and Phone# Date of Notification: via: Verbally	_ Phone Text (Indicate nature of notification)							
Tested Positive Exposed to so Symptoms, Not Tested Symp								
Check appropriate exposure type: Scho	ool/Site Home/Offsite							
Bus Rider Yes Bus# No Extra-Currie <u>Teacher record of student r</u>	cular Activity Yes Type No esponse(s) to the following:							
Please identify the persons (names) whom you were in contact with <u>within 6 feet or less for</u> <u>longer than 15 minutes with or without a mask starting from 2 days before illness onset (or,</u> <u>for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the</u> <u>patient is isolated</u> <u>Student Seat Location(Attach seating chart to this form)</u> :								
Close Contact:								
Teacher/Staff Completing this Document:	Date:							
*The District Covid-19 Coordinator may follow-up with additional tracing questions								
Principal to	o complete:							
Additional Procedures- REQUIRED FOR SAFETY REASONS								
Contact the Maintenance Department regarding cleaning/disinfecting needs. Indicate the date and time Maintenance was contacted:								
Indicate the area(s) in need of cleaning/disinfecting:								
Do areas need to be closed off? If areas need to be closed off, please post signage <b>If the entire building needs closing, please noti</b>								
Principal Completing this Document:	Date:							
	Revised January 25, 2022							

11



## Letter 1 (Please copy and paste on school letterhead)

## Parent Notification for Student with COVID-19 in the School Setting

Dear Parent:

You have reported to the school that your child ( ) has recently tested positive for COVID-19. Please see the following instructions:

- Your child may not return to the school setting until **5 days** from the day his/her symptoms started or the date of the positive test.
- The individual who tested positive should remain isolated at home for the 5-day period. During the **5-day** isolation period your child may not participate in any extracurricular school activities or sports.
- If you do have household contacts, he/she must limit exposure to them. Stay in a specific room away from others in your home. Household contacts should stay home from work and school.
- ✓ If your child has no symptoms, he/she may return on the 6<sup>th</sup> day if;
  - After 5 days he/she has been fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) with improvement of symptoms prior to returning to school.
  - > A negative test will not be required prior to return to school as long as the above criteria are met.
  - A note from your physician is not required for return to school.

Beginning Date:

Student may return to school on (insert date)

#### For additional information please see:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.htm
- Mississippi State Department of Health https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/ static/14,0,420.html

Principal Name

Ending Date:



Letter 2 (Please copy and paste on school letterhead) Parent Notification for Close Contacts to Positive COVID-19 Case

Dear Parent: ) has been identified as a *close contact* to a case of COVID-19 in Your child ( the school setting. A close contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes or greater (cumulative) while the COVID-19 infected person is contagious. The contagious period is 48 hours before to 10 days after symptoms started (or 48 hours before to 10 days after positive test if there were no symptoms). The last time the infected person was in the school setting while they were contagious was *(insert date here)* Based on this close contact the following instructions are provided.

If your child's COVID-19 vaccinations are up to date the following applies (documentation must be provided to the school):

- Student has received a COVID-19 booster dose or third dose,
- OR student received both doses of Pfizer vaccine within the last six months.

Student does **NOT** need to stay at home:

- Student should wear a mask around others at all times as is required by district policy.
- 5 days after exposure, student should be tested for COVID-19 to make sure he/she is not infected.
- If your child develops symptoms, they should be tested, notify the school, and keep your child at home.

If student is **NOT** fully vaccinated, the following will apply:

#### For 5 days following potential exposure, student:

- Will be excluded from the school setting for a minimum of 5 days after last exposure to the case of COVID-19 or date of notification.
- Should remain guarantined at home for 5 days after last exposure to the case or date of notification.
- Should be tested for COVID-19 to make sure your child is not infected.
- Should monitor for symptoms. If at any point your child feels like they are developing fever, or start having any of the symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath), contact your healthcare provider for evaluation.
- May return to school following the 5-day quarantine period if no symptoms develop.
- Wearing a mask at all times is required.

#### For additional information please see:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isoltionquarantine-guidance.html
- Mississippi State Department of Health https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\_static/14,0,420.html

Beginning Date:

Ending Date:

## Student may return to school on \_\_\_\_\_\_ (insert date)

Principal Name

Principal Signature



Letter 3 (Please copy and paste on school letterhead)

## This letter is only for the student with the symptoms

## Parent Notification for Student with COVID-19 Symptoms in School Setting

Dear Parent:

Your child (\_\_\_\_\_\_ has exhibited symptoms that could indicate COVID-19 infection.

### Please see the following instructions:

- Your child may not return to the school setting until 5 days from the day the symptoms started or you submit a negative COVID-19 test result prior to the completion of the 5day guarantine.
- Your child may return to the school setting with a doctor's statement of a none COVID related illness or diagnosis being treated.
- Your child may return with a doctor's statement if your child has no symptoms.
- If at any point child's temperature is **99.5°F** or more, feel like he/she develop symptoms (e.g. cough, sore throat, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, headache, shortness of breath or a new loss of taste or smell) contact your healthcare provider for evaluation and testing if indicated.
- If you choose not to seek medical attention, your child will be excluded from the school setting for no less than 5 days.

Beginning Date:

Ending Date:

Your child's return to school date is \_\_\_\_\_\_ or the date you provide the negative COVID-19 test results.

Principal Name

Principal Signature



## Letter 4 (Please copy and paste on school letterhead)

## Parent Notification of a Possible Exposure to a Positive COVID-19 Case

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A student in your child's classroom tested positive for COVID-19. The last time the infected person was in the school setting while contagious was \_\_\_\_\_\_(Date). Because your child was not within 3 to 6 feet of the positive case and followed CDC/GPSD guidelines, your child was NOT identified as a close contact and therefore, <u>does NOT</u> need to quarantine.

### You *should:*

- ✓ Monitor for symptoms and do temperature checks at least twice daily for **14 days** after the last exposure to the infected person while they were contagious. Contact your physician if you develop symptoms.
- ✓ Consult with your child's physician for evaluation and need for testing if symptoms develop.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 infection are *cough, fever and shortness of breath; muscle aches, sore throat and fatigue, vomiting and headache may also occur* 

- Symptoms usually develop between 2 to 14 days after last exposure.
- Some infected people never develop symptoms.

As contact tracing continues, if your child is found to be a close contact, you will receive another letter with instructions on how to proceed.

### Additional Considerations:

- Fully vaccinated staff and students (2 weeks after completion of one-dose or two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series) *do not* require weekly asymptomatic screening.
- Fully vaccinated students *do not* require quarantine or testing after contact to an infected person.
- Fully vaccinated persons who test positive or have symptoms MUST quarantine 10 days and can return on the 11<sup>th</sup> day if they are fever free without fever reducing medication and symptom free for 24 hours.

Principal Name

Principal Signature

15



## Letter 5 (Please copy and paste on school letterhead)

## **General Information Letter**

To: GPSD Parents

Knowing what to do when someone in your family becomes symptomatic, tests positive, or has become a close contact of COVID-19 can be confusing. Hopefully, the information below will help guide and clarify any uncertainty you may have regarding COVID-19.

### Terms to know:

**Case:** A person who has tested positive (whether or not they have symptoms), a person with symptoms that has not been tested yet, and those awaiting test results

**Close Contact:** A person who has been within three (3) to six (6) feet for at least fifteen (15) minutes (cumulative) in a twenty-four (24) hour period (with a person starting two (2) days before symptoms appear)

**Isolation:** Separating people (the case) with an infectious disease, like COVID-19, from people who are not sick

**Quarantine:** Separating people who were exposed (close contact) to the infectious disease to see if they become sick

**Major Symptoms:** New cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste and/or smell, fever greater than 99.5°

**Minor Symptoms:** headache, diarrhea, chills. sore throat, fatigue, muscle aches, nausea/vomiting, congestion/runny nose

### Facts:

- The case and the symptomatic close contact must isolate for five (5) days from the day the symptoms first appear. On the 5th day, the case must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and symptom free.
- A close contact (without symptoms) must quarantine for five (5) days from the last contact with the case.
- Fully Vaccinated students means:
  - Age 12-17 have received both doses of Pfizer vaccine within the last five (months) or booster/third dose
  - Age 5-11 have received both doses of Pfizer



### A quick review on testing:

- The most accurate test for both positive and negative results is the PCR test. Results may take several days.
- The rapid test (results back in an hour) is only accurate if the result is **Positive**. Negative results are often unreliable.

### Why should you be assessed by your healthcare provider?

- The healthcare provider will decide if you or your child needs to be tested.
- If the test is negative for COVID, the healthcare provider can give you a diagnosis for what illness is causing the symptoms (ie: ear infection, stomach virus etc.). This is the **alternate diagnosis** for you or your child.
- An alternate diagnosis allows the person not to be in COVID Isolation.
   Without the alternate diagnosis, you or your child will have to isolate for five (5) days.
- Students that have been quarantined from close contact to someone that has tested positive are also having to stay home for 5 days unless fully vaccinated. Students/faculty can come out of quarantine and return to school if the person triggering the quarantine gets an alternative diagnosis.

### Siblings of a symptomatic child:

- At the first sign of illness (regardless of major or two minor symptoms), isolate the sick child from the rest of the family. If they are old enough to provide self-care, keep them in a room with minimal contact from the rest of the household (remember 6 feet apart for less than 15 minutes see close contact term). Make sure all common areas are cleaned/disinfected after contact with the sick person. If the sick child is unable to self-care, then designate one person to be the caregiver.
- The sick child has a <u>major symptom</u> siblings need to stay home until a diagnosis of COVID is confirmed or an alternate diagnosis is made by the healthcare provider. Students who are close contacts of your child will be sent home as well.
- The sick child has <u>two minor symptoms</u>, and the siblings are not symptomatic the siblings can come to school. Please continue to monitor siblings for symptoms.



- The symptomatic person is the parent/caregiver treat yourself as the sick and your children as if they are your siblings.
- Keep siblings at home, if you have any doubt think about how much time they have recently spent with the sick child (Remember a person is contagious two (2) days before becoming symptomatic).
- Once the symptomatic child has tested positive, please have siblings stay home and notify school officials. Close contacts at home and school will need to be quarantined for five (5) days.

### **Being a Close Contact:**

The purpose of the quarantine is to see if the person becomes sick.

- Individuals who require quarantine after exposure:
  - Stay home for 5 days. May return to school after 5 days if asymptomatic and adhere to strict mask use for an additional 5 days at least.
  - Testing is recommended on day 5.
  - If symptoms develop, get tested sooner and continue to stay home.
- The quarantine starts on the last day he/she had contact with the case.
- If you decide to have your child tested, wait until at least five (5) days from the last exposure with the case.
- A negative test will not allow your child to come out of quarantine. If he/she tests positive, then you will need to inform your child's school nurse.

Your child's school nurse is a great resource. Also, please refer to information posted on the COVID 19 Link of Greenville Public School District's website and HealtyMS.gov. Contact each school to speak with a School Nurse



## **Contact Information**

### <u>Elementary</u>

Akin – (662) 334-7161 Armstrong – (662) 334-7121 Boyd – (662) 334-7166 McBride – (662) 334-8100 Trigg – (662) 334-7176 Stern – (662)334-7131 Webb – (662) 7146 Weddington – (662) 334-7101

### <u>Secondary</u>

Coleman – (662) 334-7036 Weston – (662) 334-7080 Manning Restart – (662) 390-7528 Greenville High – (662) 334-7061 Greenville Technical Center – (662) 873-1210

### <u>District</u>

Athletics – (662 873-7564 COVID Response Coordinator – (662) 379-0698 Strategic Programs Coordinator – (662) 820-8809