

Department of Education Grainger County

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Dr. James Atkins, Director

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:

- Fever (temperature of 100.4 or greater)
- Chills
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Cough
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Fatigue
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste or smell

(Current symptoms listed per CDC on 7/7/20. 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 exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case. In any of these instances, please contact school officials immediately.

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 3-12) 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. Masks will be provided.

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- 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?
 - 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. Students may return to school if the answer to **ANY** of the following questions is **YES**:

- **Did a health care provider confirm that the student’s illness is not due to COVID-19 because another explanation was identified. e.g., fever due to urinary tract infection, strep throat confirmed by a positive strep test, rash from poison ivy, etc.?** (Diagnoses of upper respiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia, viral illness, etc. **DO NOT** exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19 and is not adequate to authorize return to school.) **Individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 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.**
- **Did the student have a positive COVID-19 molecular/PCR/antigen test and complete isolation for a minimum of 10 days AND have resolution of fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement in COVID-19 symptoms for at least 24 hours?** No medical evaluation or proof of negative COVID-19 test is required.
- **Has the student been well for at least 72 hours AND have documentation of TWO (2) negative COVID-19 molecular/PCR tests at least 24 hours apart during the most recent absence due to symptoms consistent with COVID-19?** (Results of tests that precede the dates of the most recent absence are not acceptable, nor are results of antibody testing.). This is the only way an individual can shorten the required 10-day isolation period for symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- **In the case of a student with symptoms that did not obtain testing, 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?**

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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