



September 10, 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians,

We know that last year was tough, but we're excited to be back in the classroom this fall. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to continue to remain in school. As part of our efforts to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school open for in-school learning, we need your help.

Due to COVID-19, it has made it very hard to determine what might be causing illness symptoms. We have also heard reports in the community of people with cough and congestion due to allergies, and then testing positive for COVID-19. We have chosen to continue to err on the side of caution for the safety of our staff and students. Students who present any (one or more) of the following symptoms during school hours, with or without a fever, will be sent home:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Additionally, your child may be asked to wear a mask until they are picked up to go home.

Emergency warning signs of COVID-19 which emergency medical care is needed immediately include:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue colored skin, lips, or nail beds depending on the skin tone

Per the CDC: "People with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms reported-ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms." The previous list does not include all symptoms.

If your child complains of any of these symptoms in the morning, **please monitor your child at home instead of sending them to school until it has been determined it is not illness.** Please note that this includes headaches if not relieved with hydration and rest. We do not want to mask symptoms of COVID-19 by medicating with Tylenol, Ibuprofen, or other over-the-counter medications unless we have a previous order from your child's physician to administer the medication due to a chronic health condition, such as migraines. Please remember to check your child's temperature prior to each school day and keep your child home if a fever is present. It is that time of year when other illnesses are also starting to appear. Please consult with your healthcare provider to determine if further evaluation is needed.

Per GCA Student Illness Guidelines, students must be fever-free, vomit-free, and diarrhea-free for a full 24 hours (without any fever reducing medications or over the counter anti-diarrhea medications on board) before returning to school. If your child is diagnosed with COVID-19, you and your family will need to follow the guidelines issued by the Licking County Health Department on when your child can return to school.

Please remind your child to wash their hands frequently, use tissues properly, cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow, and to avoid touching/picking their nose, eyes, or face.

Thank you for helping keep our GCA family healthy and safe.



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