

## UPDATE 2022-2023 COVID-19 GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

### Updated COVID-19 Guidelines and Information:

- OCSS students and staff are asked to follow COVID-19 guidelines from the Department of Health or their health care provider.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, testing is recommended. To assist with this, **“at home” test kits are now available to our students and staff.** If a parent is interested in obtaining a test kit for their student, they can contact Kristina Turner at 706-743-8781 or [nurse@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us](mailto:nurse@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us). Parents, please understand this DOES NOT mean we will be testing your student at school. We want to give our parents and staff an additional resource to make informed decisions when they are feeling unwell.

The school nurses will continue to refer to the “*COVID-19 Decision Making Guide*” concerning students seen in the clinic with possible COVID-19 symptoms. The decision-making guide is a tool to help our staff with consistent decision-making across the district and to provide clear communication to parents about when students are sent home from school and when they should return. When students are sent home from school with symptoms, they may contact Kristina Turner if they are interested in obtaining a free at-home test kit.

### What to do if my child tests positive for COVID-19:

- Following a positive test, your child should remain home for at least 5 days from when the symptoms first began. The day symptoms start is considered day **zero (0)**.
- On day six (6), if the child has been fever-free for 24 hours without medication and is generally feeling better, they may return to school.
- Any student who tests positive with an at-home test will be considered EXCUSED for their 5-day isolation period. For the absence to be EXCUSED, the parent *MUST* provide details of the illness to the school or to the district nurse. You may do so by phone, email, or a handwritten note. (\*\**The district wide attendance policy allows for up to 10 EXCUSED absences every year based on the parent reporting the illness to the school.*)
- If the student tests positive at a doctor’s office or a testing site, when the parent or guardian provides that documentation to the school, the absence will be marked as MEDICALLY EXCUSED.
- Absences past the 5-day mark will be considered UNEXCUSED without follow-up documentation.
- Parents of students in grades K-5 may reach out to their child’s teacher by email or by messenger for schoolwork related questions.
- Students in grades 6-12 should check Google Classroom for assignments. The teachers are also available by email; their email address can be found in PowerSchool. Please call the front office of your child’s school if you need help with contacting a teacher or if you feel as if your student is falling behind while they are absent.

**What to do if my child is exposed to COVID-19:**

- Following an exposure, regardless of vaccination status, if your child is symptom free, they are encouraged to come to school. Please monitor your child for symptoms for 10 days and if symptoms develop, then they should remain home, and testing is recommended. A free test is available by contacting our district nurse at [nurse@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us](mailto:nurse@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us).