

Dear Chardon Schools Parent/Guardian:

The COVID pandemic continues to present challenges to school districts throughout the State of Ohio. Among these is finding a balance between the health and safety of students and staff and maintaining in-person learning for as many students as possible. In a state-wide webinar this morning, the Ohio Department of Health noted that the number of students being quarantined or excluded from school under current guidelines is a significant concern given the small number of “breakthrough” cases where a close contact transitions to a positive case (in Geauga County, the estimate is approximately 4 percent).

In response to the data indicating a low rate of transition from close contact to positive case, the Geauga Public Health Department issued [NEW GUIDANCE](#) designed to keep students defined as close contacts in school. The Chardon Local School District has been following the GPH guidance on exclusion from school and will continue to do so moving forward. While the full document is linked above for your reference, the key points are as follows:

1. A student is defined as a close contact if they have been closer than 6 feet, for at least 10 minutes total time within a 24-hour period.
2. If a student is notified that they have been in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 virus, they can continue to attend school if they ***are vigilant about mask wearing for the 14 days following exposure, are*** closely monitoring for symptoms and convert to isolation protocol if they start to experience any symptoms.
3. ***If the student or parent feels the mask wearing cannot be done reliably, then they should remain at home.***

Gauga Public Health and the Chardon Schools rely on both parents and students taking personal responsibility for disclosing illness, quarantining/isolation as necessary, and notifying appropriate persons regarding symptoms that might arise. The new guidance for quarantine/exclusion from school will go into effect immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if you require additional information in this regard.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent