\*Revised as of 12/02/2020

**If a child presents with any of the following issues, then the parent/guardian will be notified, and the child must be picked up by parent/ guardian/emergency contact .**

**Suspicion of Covid-19 Virus** - any student who presents to the clinic/ nurse with any **one** of the **High risk symptoms** (fever, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath(not related to or corrected by asthma/asthma medication) cough, loss of taste or smell) or **with any combination of 2 or more Low risk symptoms** (congestion, runny nose, nausea/ vomiting/ diarrhea, sore throat, headache, fatigue, chills or myalgia) will be sent home and is advised to seek further evaluation by a physician.

* Students with suspected Covid symptoms will be provided immediately with a disposable face mask, if not already wearing one and will be moved to the contamination/isolation area until picked up by parent/guardian/emergency contact.
* Student will not return to school until at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms and 24 hours without fever and without fever reducing medication.
* Or, may return prior to 10 days with a negative Covid test and 24 hours after fever free without fever reducing medication (must return to normal at or below 98.6) and symptoms are improved, **if Physician approved**.
* Examples of accepted diagnoses (From a Physician) would include fever due to urinary tract infection, strep throat confirmed by a positive strep test, rash from poison ivy, etc.
* Examples that **DO NOT** exclude the diagnosis of Covid-19 and **DO NOT** justify return to school would include diagnosis of respiratory and viral conditions such as allergic rhinitis, seasonal allergies, upper respiratory tract infection (URI), pneumonia, pharyngitis without positive strep test, viral illness.,

**Students exposed to Covid**….

* Students are considered a direct exposure if they’re within 6 feet of a person that’s a confirmed case for 15 minutes or more during the “contagious period” (48 hours prior to onset of symptoms)
* Must stay home and quarantine for 14 days after the date of last exposure (If a 2nd or 3rd person in the home or circle tests positive after the original exposure, the 14 day quarantine restarts for the undiagnosed student).
* \*If asymptomatic through 10 or 7 days, the student could return earlier if the family chooses to do so, with the following stipulations being met. \* As the CDC states, a full 14 day quarantine is still the safest option.
* If an individual does **NOT** develop symptoms during quarantine, then they are only required to be out for a period of 10 full days. If they test negative day 7 or after, and have remained asymptomatic since exposure, then that period can be reduced to 7 full days.
* A negative COVID-19 note **MUST** be submitted to your child’s school (nurse and/or administrator) in order to reduce time from 14 days to 7 days. (This test cannot be taken prior to day 7)
* Upon return, student must check in with the nurse for temperature check.
* Any student returning prior to the full quarantine will be sent directly to the isolation room until a parent/ guardian/ emergency contact arrives to pick them up.
* Students with a **positive** test will be isolated and should not return to school until they are at least 24 hours fever free (must return to normal at or below 98.6) without fever reducing medication (this **MUST** be at least 10 days from onset) AND symptoms are markedly improved AND approved by the local health department to return.
* If a student has had close contact with someone that has COVID-19--Lives with the person, but can avoid further contact. Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from when the person with COVID-19 began home isolation, unless the above mentioned criteria for return at 7 or 10 days are met. If under quarantine and have an additional contact or new exposure to someone testing positive for COVID-19— You will have to restart your quarantine from the last day you had contact with them.  **Any time a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and who has not been completely isolated , you will need to restart your quarantine.**
* If a student lives in the same household with someone who has COVID-19 and complete isolation is not possible, they will need to quarantine for 24 days. (10 days for the time that the person is contagious and then 14 days more for the incubation period, unless the above mentioned stipulations for early return are met.)

**Appearance/Behavior** - Lethargy (unusually tired, pale, and difficult to wake), confused or irritable.  These symptoms can be sufficient reason to stay at home, if severe or unusual.

**Fever** - Temperature of 100.4 F or higher, then child must go home and be fever free without medication for at least 24 hours (at or below 98.6) before returning to school.  While at home, caregivers are encouraged to ensure that the child receives adequate fluids.

* It is recommended that all students who are sent home with a fever, are evaluated by a physician.

**Diarrhea** - Two (2) or more watery stools in a 24-hour period, unless accompanied by other symptoms, at which time the nurse will determine if there is a need to send home sooner.

**Vomiting** - Two (2) or more times within the past 24 hours, child should be kept home.  If vomiting occurs at school, child must be sent home and free of vomiting episodes for at least 24 hours.

**Rash** - Children with a skin rash should see a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases. Heat rash and allergic reactions are not contagious, and the student may come to school if symptoms are tolerable.

**Sore Throat** - A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be more serious, even if no fever exists.  Special tests are needed to diagnosis strep throat.  If other symptoms are part of the complaint, it is advised that the child’s parent be called to pick them up because they may be contagious.

**Eyes** - With pink eye (conjunctivitis), you may see a white/yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, or eye pain and redness.  Child should go home if suspected pink eye and treatment has not begun.  The child may return to school after 24-hour treatment of an antibiotic eye medication.

**Communicable Disease** - Refer to Board Policy SP 6.403 and Shelby County Health Department guidance.

**Ringworm** - Ringworm is contagious, and to stop the spread of infection, timely treatment is extremely important.  Avoiding skin contact with the infected person is the best way to stop it from spreading. Ringworm can be treated simply with some over-the-counter anti-fungal cream, though more severe cases may require the use of an oral anti-fungal medication.  The area must be covered and treated for the student to remain in school.

**Allowing your child to be in school with any of the above symptoms puts other children and staff at risk.  The intent of these guidelines is in the best interest of all and can translate into fewer missed days due to illness.  We will be proactive in maintaining a healthy environment in our schools for all of our community.**

**Scenarios to consider: COVID-19 like symptoms**

If a student at school is sent home with COVID like symptoms, then they are out for 10 full days from the day symptoms started. If John is sent home from school on 11/30/2020, then John must meet the following criteria in order to return:

1. **A full 10 day quarantine (Counting would start with date of symptoms being day ZERO and the following day being day ONE. This scenario would have John returning to school on 12/11/2020)**
2. **A negative COVID test to clear the student and have them return (must be fever free in order to return with a negative COVID test for symptoms only) \*Scenario not applicable to direct contacts.**
3. **An approved alternative diagnosis from a physician. Our GMSD Dr. Note must be signed and completed by a physician in order to meet this requirement.**

**Scenarios to consider: Positive COVID-19 Case**

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they must meet the criteria for returning, which would be the following:

1. **A full 10 day quarantine and must be fever/symptoms improved upon return. Medical clearance and/or a negative COVID-19 test is not required in order for a confirmed positive case to return to school.**

*EX: If Susie tests positive on 11/30/2020 and was asymptomatic (without symptoms), then she would have a return date of 12/11/2020. \*The day the COVID-19 test was taken would count as day ZERO in this scenario.*

*EX: If Susie tests positive on 11/30/2020, but started symptoms on 11/27/2020, then we would generate a return date based on the first day of symptoms. In this scenario, 11/27/2020 would be day ZERO and her return date would be 12/08/2020.*

**Scenarios to consider: Direct exposure to a confirmed positive case**

If a student is identified as a direct contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) to a confirmed COVID case, then there’s two avenues for return. The following criteria must be met in order to return:

1. **A full 14 day quarantine (based on the last day they were exposed to the confirmed positive case) and must be fever/symptom free upon return. A student that is “asymptomatic” come day 7 may go and get a rapid COVID-19 test. If the test is negative, they can return the following day (day 8) and MUST provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test.**

*EX: Alex was exposed to a confirmed positive case on 11/27/2020 and decides not to get COVID tested. Therefore, Alex must complete a full 14 day quarantine with a return date of 12/12/2020.*

1. **If a student is without symptoms after 7 days of quarantine and receives a negative COVID-19 test, then they can return with proof of that negative COVID-19 test. (Turn in to nurse and/or administrator)**

*EX: Julie was exposed to a confirmed positive case on 11/27/2020, and after 7 days of being symptom free, (12/04) and decides to go get a COVID-19 test. The test results come back negative. Therefore, Julie will complete a 7 day quarantine and have a return date of 12/05/2020.*

*EX: IF Julie did not want to get tested and was still symptom free through day 10 after being exposed, she and her parents would have the option to allow her to return to school on day 11. (return date would be 12/08)*

1. **If a student is unable to isolate from a confirmed positive case, then the amount of time in quarantine will change from 14 days to 24 days. The above mentioned stipulations may come into play if the student remains symptoms free through the contagious period and into the incubation period of the virus.**

*EX: Sam is a direct contact to both his parents that are confirmed positive cases. Sam is not able to isolate from his parents, therefore, Sam’s parents must complete their 10 day quarantine before his 14 day quarantine begins. If Sam’s parents tested positive on 11/24/2020, then Sam is being exposed to the virus until 12/4. Sam’s 14 days wouldn’t start until 12/05/2020 and his return date would be 12/19/2020. If Sam remained asymptomatic from the time of first exposure until 12/11, he could choose to be tested return early on the 12th with a negative COVID test.*

*Also, If he remained asymptomatic until 12/14, his parents could choose to allow him to return on 12/15.*

**Things to consider:**

1. **We do not send students home that are direct contacts to a direct contact.**

*EX: Allen is a direct contact to his friend he saw over the weekend. Allen must quarantine and meet the criteria for return. Allen has a little sister, Ella, that attends the elementary school. Ella is not a direct contact to the confirmed case and does NOT have to quarantine. \*If Allen tests positive during quarantine, then his sister, Ella, would be considered a direct contact in this scenario.*

1. **When determining direct exposure, we look at within 6 feet for 15 minutes consecutively, unless masks are not being worn. \*Masks are required on all GMSD campuses. However, if masks were not worn, for whatever reason, we would add minutes over a 24 hour period in order to determine if a student met the criteria for being a direct contact to a confirmed positive case.**

**(Revised 12/02/2020)**