**Tips for Keeping Your Students In Class**

\*When contact tracing takes place in any of our GMSD buildings, we are looking at two critical elements:

(a) Social Distancing

(b) masks worn

\*The latest guidance from the CDC and SCHD allows for a special exemption that is only applicable to students in a K-12 setting.

* As long as students are at least **3-6 feet apart** and **wearing well-fitting and correctly fitting masks** (over their mouth and nose), then they would not be identified as a direct contact to a positive case. (The positive case must wear mask correctly as well).

\*When mask breaks are taken and/or situations that involve the student not wearing a mask (lunch, snack break, mask break, and recess), the above exemption is no longer applicable and social distancing of **6 feet** is now needed to eliminate a student from becoming a direct contact.

* If 6 feet cannot be accommodated for **lunch**, try to ensure you have an up to date seating chart. This will aid dramtically for contact tracing purposes.
* Try to keep students from sitting down by each other for extended periods of time on **recess**. Students up and moving around will dramatically decrease the likelihood of an exposure while masks are off.

\*Consider the layout of your room when it comes to accommodating and being creative with space.

* Measure space from seat to seat to ensure a minimum of 3 feet social distancing is accommodated.
* If 3 feet is not currently present between seats, consider a new layout for seating. This will eliminate your students from being identified as a direct contact.

\*Exposure time has changed from last year. We now consider **15 “cumulative” minutes** of being less than 3 feet (masks on) or less than 6 feet (masks off) as an exposure to a positive case.

\*Symptoms are key identifiers of when we would need to send a student home. However, we have guidelines as to which symptoms and how many must be accumulated before a student can be sent home for “**covid-like symptoms**”. ***One High-Risk or 3 or more Low-Risk Symptoms***

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| **High-Risk Symptoms** | **Low-Risk Symptoms** |
| Fever | Congestion/Runny Nose |
| Difficulty Breathing | Myalgia |
| Shortness of Breath | Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea |
| Loss of Taste | Sore Throat |
| Loss of Smell | Headache |
| New Onset or Excessive Cough | Fatigue |
|  | Chills |