Gates County Public Schools is using the following guidelines to help manage COVID cases and contacts. **It is important to understand that even under our optional mask policy there are going to be scenarios that require students and staff to wear masks**.

**If a person has been diagnosed with COVID**:

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| - Person has tested positive but the person does not have symptoms. |
| Person can return to school 5 days after the specimen collection date of their positive test as long as they did not develop symptoms. The person must continue to mask for an additional 5 days to minimize risk of infecting others.  The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school. |

**If a person has symptoms of COVID:**

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| - Person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has tested positive with an antigen test or PCR/molecular test. |
| Person can return to school when:    • It has been at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms; AND  • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND  • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.  The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school. The person must continue to mask for an additional 5 days to minimize risk of infecting others. |

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| - Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing. |
| Person can return to school when:    • It has been at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms; AND  • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND  • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.  The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.  The person must continue to mask for an additional 5 days to minimize risk of infecting others. |

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| - Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative (PCR) test for COVID-19 or has visited a health care provider and received an alternate diagnosis that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19. |
| Person can return to school when:  • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND  • They have felt well for at least 24 hours.  Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis. |

**If a person lives in a household with a positive Covid-19 case:**

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| **- If a person has been exposed to a positive Covid-19 case within the household.** |
| It is recommended that the person wear a mask for 10 days following the positive test results or start of symptoms.  If symptoms occur, person should immediately isolate until a test either confirms  COVID-19, or a negative result rules it out. |