



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Staff
FROM: Health and Safety Committee
RE: September Health Updates
DATE: 9/20/22

Please read the following updates to our COVID-19 policies and procedures as well as Influenza updates from the Health & Safety Committee.

The Health & Safety Committee meets quarterly to discuss and plan health policies for our staff, students, visitors, and community. We encourage participation from all departments both administrative and non-administrative staff. Please reach out to Leeanne Di Russo or Lorien Vidal if you would like to join the Health & Safety Committee.

Green Chimneys values input from all staff when creating policies. If you are unable to attend the Health & Safety meetings and would like to leave anonymous questions or concerns, please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCHealthSafety>

COVID Policies and Procedures

The following policies continue to be in effect:

- Positive cases in staff and students must still be reported to the Health Center, but are no longer reported to the NYSDOH.
- Individuals who test positive must isolate for 5 days and may return to work on day 6 if symptoms have resolved. They must continue to wear a mask for day 6-10 after testing positive.
- The Health Center or School Nurse will continue to notify families of exposed students/residents.
- Supervisors must notify staff who are exposed.
- Staff and students experiencing symptoms of COVID *may* still be asked to test before returning to school or work.
- Staff and students should continue practicing effective infection control procedures including hand washing, and staying home when they are sick.
- Staff and students are encouraged to get the COVID vaccination and boosters as recommended by the CDC.

The Following policies/procedures are NO LONGER in effect:

- Exposed individuals (student & staff) are no longer required to quarantine. They must monitor for symptoms, are encouraged to wear a mask for 10 days, and test if symptoms develop.
- Test-to-stay policy has been removed for students.
- Unvaccinated staff are no longer required to submit weekly testing.

- Students are no longer recommended to stay in pods or cohorts during the school day.
- Testing is not required to end isolation following a positive COVID infection.
- Screenings are no longer required for students, staff, and visitors.
- Mandatory physical distancing can be removed in classrooms and dining halls.
- Weekly COVID counts will no longer be reported on the GC website, but will still be kept up-to-date in the health center.

Influenza updates

- Yearly Flu shots are recommended as the first step in protecting against Flu viruses.
- Flu shots are available at low or no cost in the community. Please visit your local pharmacy, grocery store, or doctor's office to make your Flu shot appointment. Green Chimneys will not be holding a flu shot clinic this year.

2022-2023 School Operating Plan:

<https://www.greenschimneys.org/therapeutic-special-education/parents-families/announcements/virus-update/>

Staff Matrix:

<https://www.greenschimneys.org/careers/employee-benefits/staff-resources-virus>