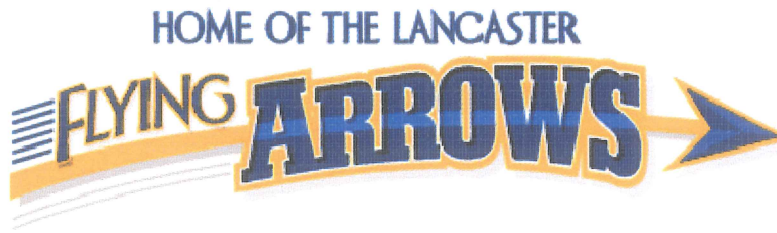


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Dear Families,

September 14, 2021

There is a change in practice at GCHD which will allow our students and staff on quarantine to return to school is a shorter amount of time (GCHD does not recommend this practice but will allow it). The modification that allows an individual to return early is the reduction from six feet to three for social distancing while wearing a mask. Below is the DHS language we will follow concerning early return from quarantine.

In December 2020, the CDC revised guidelines, and provided an option to shorten the standard quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days for people who are not fully vaccinated and who remain asymptomatic, provided that daily symptom monitoring continues for the full 14 day period. The duration of quarantine may be further shortened to 7 days if the result of a diagnostic COVID19 test collected on day 6 or 7 is negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. Note that quarantine for 14 full days after the time of exposure remains the safest strategy for preventing asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19. For shortened quarantine periods to be acceptable, the following conditions must be met:

- *The quarantined person monitors for and reports symptoms twice daily for 14 days to GCHD.*
- *The quarantined person does not experience any symptoms of COVID-19.* • *The quarantined person agrees to immediately self-isolate and contact the local public health authority and/or a health care provider if symptoms develop.*
- *The quarantined person adheres strictly to all recommended COVID-19 prevention measures (i.e., consistent mask use, physical distancing, and avoiding crowds) for 14 days.*
- *The quarantined person should not participate in any activities such as classroom instruction, athletics, busing, before school or after school programs, and other extracurricular activities where proper physical distancing of at least 3 feet between students cannot be maintained for 14 days.*
- *Students and staff who are unable to safely and consistently wear masks or maintain physical distancing of at least 3 feet for students and 6 feet for staff, should quarantine for a full 14 days.*