



# Gilbert Schools

*Every Student. Every Day.*

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November 16, 2020

Gilbert Families,

The impact of COVID-19 is at the forefront of our minds these days. It is certainly dominating our work and planning as a school system. Our mitigation has kept us together for 54 days now, which we are very thankful for. We have seen a small uptick in our positive cases for both staff and students along with quarantining numbers. This data is available on our COVID Dashboard, located on the [Gilbert CSD COVID website page](#). The Iowa Dept. of Education has developed guidelines for districts to consider when applying for a waiver to move fully remote. Data that is used when making this consideration is county positivity and student absenteeism. Gilbert is also collecting data on staff and students quarantining, along with staff illness. This gives us an accurate picture of the status of our district daily. While our county has reached the positivity threshold our absentee rate is well below the guidelines given. We will continue to monitor these numbers daily and let you know if changes need to be made.

## **Wellness, Mitigation, and Quarantine Updates**

We wanted to make you aware of a change in our communication procedures for exposure to COVID-19.

- If your child were to be exposed to a person that tested positive for COVID-19 here at school that would result in your child needing to quarantine, the school and Story County Public Health will contact you.
- If your child were to be exposed to a person that tested positive for COVID-19 here at school that would result in your child needing to self-monitor symptoms, Story County Public Health will contact you and the school may not contact you.

As cold and flu season begins, we would also like to remind you of the guidance of when to stay home if you are not feeling well. Please review the [guidance](#) for when a member of your household is displaying symptoms. Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions.

**Remote Wednesday Attendance**

We are in a good place with remote attendance on Wednesdays. This is due to all of you. Thank you for your help in making this work. Continue to have students check in through Infinite Campus on Wednesdays.

**Snow Days & COVID**

Starting this year, Iowa schools are allowed to have students learn virtually in lieu of a traditional snow day. We do not anticipate using this option this year for several reasons. We place a premium on face-to-face instruction. Our teachers work hard in developing quality lessons that are meant for onsite instruction, to change those in a matter of hours would not be in the best interest of student learning. All students do not take devices home daily unless it is for remote Wednesdays. And lastly, of all years, a snow day here or there may be a nice break from the new normal routine. As in previous years, we will plan on making up snow days at the end of the year. One caveat to this would be a snowstorm on a remote Wednesday. Remote learning will still occur.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. We are only an email or phone call away. Take care and stay healthy.

#TigersTogether