



AVON GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

INSPIRE PASSION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

January 21, 2022

Dear Avon Grove Charter School Community,

This morning, the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) released new guidance for K-12 schools regarding contact tracing and quarantining. The CCHD stated, “with the current transmission, and following recent CDC updates to isolation and quarantine guidelines, contact tracing is increasingly less effective and not practical as a tool to disrupt the spread of infection for the overall Chester County Community.” As stated in our last communication, the county has seen a rapid increase in the number of positive tests, resulting in an exponential rise in the number of people exposed to COVID-19.

In-person instruction, even in times of substantial transmission, is critical. This new guidance will help keep our staff and students in school. AGCS has followed the guidance of the CCHD department since the start of the pandemic. Therefore, effective immediately, Avon Grove Charter School will discontinue contact tracing and the process of identifying close contacts for quarantining. Schools are no longer authorized to conduct contact tracing or issue CCHD quarantine letters. Any individual placed on quarantine before today must complete the entire quarantine period before returning to school.

As a reminder, anyone who does not feel well should stay home and seek medical direction from their physician. All individuals that test positive for COVID-19 still need to isolate per CCHD and CDC guidelines. Individuals who test positive are strongly urged to notify any close contacts themselves. Staff and families should continue to work directly with the school nurse to report positive COVID 19 test results and receive isolation instructions and return dates. [CCHD and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance](#).

AGCS is still offering COVID tests for staff and students who present with symptoms during the school day; however, we have limited tests available at this time. You can find testing information on the CCHD website through your physician and request free at-home test kits for your family through [this website](#).

As we have done since the start of COVID-19, we will continue implementing our Health and Safety Plan. We share in your frustration and confusion as the guidelines continually change and schools are asked to pivot at a moment's notice. With that, our focus will remain the same- stay patient and focus on educating our students.

Lastly, PDE requires school boards to review and approve their health and safety plans every six months. Our review will occur during our board meeting on **Monday, January 24th, 2022**. At this time, the administration will continue to recommend that the board follow the CCHD guidance for schools, including these quarantine and isolation guidelines and wearing face coverings while inside school buildings. We are hopeful the situation will improve in the coming weeks and see the transmission level significantly decrease.

We appreciate your patience and understanding,

Kristen Bishop