

The Suzuki School COVID 19 Newsletter: Volume 85



On Friday, we were notified that new guidance has been published by the Georgia Department of Health. This new guidance pertains to both schools and early learning centers. This is great news - first, because they are now providing consistent guidance for both schools and early learning centers, and second because the guidance is more congruent. If you would like to review the update itself, [click here](#). Otherwise, we've summarized it for you below.

The new guidance is in line with what we have been planning and reporting for the last several weeks, and further clarifies when classroom closures need to occur, or when individuals need to quarantine. The highlights are:

1. Classrooms do not have to close if a child or teacher is diagnosed with COVID19 while in the classroom. However, as is always the case, parents must be informed so that they can determine if they need to test, quarantine or take additional precautions (such as wearing a mask). Please note: According to the updated guidance, if an unvaccinated teacher or child has an exposure outside of school setting (such as from attending a birthday party, traveling, or at a soccer match), the individual is required to follow a standard quarantine protocol of 10 days.
2. Schools may implement a Modified Quarantine Schedule. With the Modified Quarantine Schedule, if there is an exposure at school, students and staff can continue to attend Suzuki during the quarantine period as long as they remain asymptomatic. We plan to continue requiring students and teachers to utilize COVID home tests during this period to reduce incidences of additional spread.
3. If using a Modified Quarantine schedule, all faculty and children 2 years of age and older must wear a mask during the 10 day period. The guidance states that this is strongly encouraged, however, we are taking precaution to make it mandatory for students in Primary classrooms during the 10 day period to reduce spread. We know from experience that masking does work.
4. They recommend surveillance testing or test to stay protocols. This is consistent with what the school implemented in January.
5. As stated by the CDC guidance, strategies can change based on COVID-19 community spread levels.
6. We are only required to report to the Department of Health when there are clusters of COVID-19 cases - not individual cases that parents may inform us about.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out!

