

Stepped COVID Policy Update

ECSS recognizes the need to have a flexible response to COVID-19 in the school family based on a variety of factors including virus transmission rates in the community, frequency of cases in the school, use of other mitigation factors, etc. To provide clarity to staff, parents and students of how ECSS will respond going forward, the following stepped policy provides information on what our response will normally be based on the various factors. Changes to a different level will be evaluated and adjusted on a monthly basis (or sooner with CRT and SMT approval). Refer to the summary chart at the end of this document for a policy overview. See the decision process section below for more information on how decisions will be made and communicated.

Level 4 (**both** of the following are true **or** in response to local or state emergency health declaration):

- PRC cases per 100,000 in Cobb County higher than 930 (last 2 weeks) **or** PRC positivity rate in Cobb County higher than 20% (7-day avg)*
- On-campus close contact COVID cases or outbreaks reported impacting three or more ECSS classes in past 30 days

Level 4 response (moving to a level 4 response *subject to CRT and SMT approval*):

- Reporting of positive cases and contact tracing
- Follow school sick policy for those with symptoms (including isolation of COVID positive cases)
- Move to standard quarantine* due to on campus exposure requiring the whole class to remain at home during the quarantine period
- Move to Pod/cohorts approach limiting classroom interaction and limiting all school activities
- Distance learning provided for COVID positive or quarantined students who are well

Level 3 (**both** of the following are true)

- PRC cases per 100,000 in Cobb County are between 400 and 930 (last 2 weeks) **or** PRC positivity rate in Cobb County between 10% and 20% (7-day avg)*
- On-campus close contact COVID cases or outbreaks reported impacting two or less classes in past 30 days (*note: if there are multiple current cases from more than one family in any one class at the same time or three or more current cases from more than one family in the school at any one time, the school will maintain at level 3 status regardless of community statistics*)

Level 3 response:

- Reporting of positive cases and contact tracing
- Follow school sick policy for those with symptoms (including isolation of COVID positive cases)
- Move to modified quarantine* allowing on campus learning with masks and limited extra-curricular activities required
- Use pod/cohorts approach where possible and modify certain school activities as necessary
- Distance learning provided for COVID positive or quarantined students who are well

(on limited basis depending on grade level expectations)

Level 2 (**both** of the following are true)

- PRC cases per 100,000 in Cobb County are less than 400 (last 2 weeks) **or** PRC positivity rate in Cobb County less than 10% (7-day avg)*
- No on-campus close contact COVID cases or outbreaks reported for the past 30 days **or** two or less in the past 60 days (*note: if there are multiple current cases from more than one family in any one class at the same time or three or more current cases from more than one family in the school at any one time, the school will maintain at level 2 status regardless of community statistics*)

Level 2 response:

- Reporting of positive cases and contact tracing
- Follow school sick policy for those with symptoms (including isolation of COVID positive cases)
- Optional modified quarantine* (masks not required and extra-curriculars allowed for those exposed and without symptoms)
- No pod/cohort approach and no modification of school activities required
- No distance learning provided except for COVID positive students who are well

Level 1: (**both** of the following are true)

- PRC cases per 100,000 in Cobb County are less than 100 (last 2 weeks) **or** PRC positivity rate in Cobb County less than 5% (7-day avg)*
- No on-campus close contact COVID cases or outbreaks reported for the past 30 days **or** two or less in the past 90 days (*note: if there are multiple current cases from more than one family in any one class at the same time or three or more current cases from more than one family in the school at any one time, the school will maintain at level 1 status regardless of community statistics*)

Level 1 response:

- No reporting of positive cases or contact tracing
- Follow school sick policy for those with symptoms (including isolation of self-reported COVID positive cases)
- No quarantine necessary
- No pod/cohort approach and no modification of school activities required
- No distance learning provided except for COVID positive students who are well

Level 0: (**both** of the following are true)

- All school staff and school family members have the opportunity to receive a COVID vaccine (*note: the school will not require vaccines but moving to level this will be evaluated based on the approval of vaccine availability for ages 5 and up*)
- No on-campus close contact COVID cases or outbreaks reported for the past 90 days

Level 0 response:

- Discontinue any COVID protocols and follow only school sick policy unless a new health emergency is declared

* using the DPH web site for this data [COVID-19 Status Report | Georgia Department of Public Health](#)

Decision making process:

- Once the school is at a certain level, we would only move to a more restrictive/higher level if all criteria of that level are met
- We would move to a lower level if any criteria of the current level are no longer valid (e.g. positivity rate of 12% and cases of 500 per 100,000 in Cobb County but no on-campus close contact cases at ECCS for the last 30 days...to be interpreted as since the last SMT meeting...would move us from level 3 to level 2)
- Date of decision for the following month will be the date the CRT meets before the SMT meeting for the current month (normally the day of the SMT meeting)
- The effective date of any changes in (or the maintaining of) a level may be communicated by email or parent alert the day following the SMT meeting and will be effective for the following month until the day after the next SMT meeting (unless the SMT decides to make a decision sooner for any reason)
- No communication will be made if a change in level does not occur
- The SMT retains the right to make decisions outside of this policy and/or changes to this policy based on new information or changing circumstances

* *ECCS quarantine policy*

Quarantine for close contacts: Any staff member or student determined to be a close contact to someone confirmed to be COVID positive will be asked to quarantine in one of two ways:

- *Modified option:* The staff member or student may return to school if they remain asymptomatic and agree to do the following:
 - Correctly and consistently wear a mask (except for eating, drinking, PE, recess outside and other reasonable times the school may designate)
 - Physically distance as much as is possible
 - Limit school-sponsored extracurricular activities during the first 7 days (until negative test on day 5 or later) or until after the 10-day quarantine
 - Discontinue modified quarantine after 10 days from exposure (date to be communicated by school office)
- *Standard option:* If there is not a desire or ability to follow the modified quarantine option (or if the school moves to level 1 status), the student or staff member should quarantine at home according to DPH and CDC guidelines. Those exposed to a family member, will normally be asked to follow the standard quarantine option unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

In addition, if at a level that requires quarantining, ECCS will participate in contact tracing efforts with the local health department with the goal of reducing community spread of COVID-19. If at level 2 or above, staff members or parents of students who believe they may have a close contact situation should contact the school office.

Stepped COVID Policy Summary Chart (refer to full policy for more detail)

Level	Criteria For Level	Response
Level 4	Cobb County Cases > 930/100K (last 2 weeks) or Cobb County PCR Positivity Rate > 20% (7-day average) and 3 or more COVID cases in past 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Positive Cases and contact tracing • Follow Sick school policy including COVID isolation • Standard Quarantine Required • Pod/Cohorts for classes • Distance learning provided for all
Level 3	Cobb County Cases between 400-930/100K (last 2 weeks) or Cobb County PCR Positivity Rate > 10% (7-day average) and 2 or less COVID cases in past 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Positive Cases and contact tracing • Follow Sick school policy including COVID isolation • Modified Quarantine Required • Pod/Cohorts for classes • Distance learning provided for all
Level 2	Cobb County Cases between 100-400/100K (last 2 weeks) or Cobb County PCR Positivity Rate < 10% (7-day average) and 0 COVID cases in the past 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Positive Cases and contact tracing • Follow Sick school policy including COVID isolation • Optional Quarantine • Distance learning provided for positive Covid cases only
Level 1	Cobb County Cases < 100/100K (last 2 weeks) or Cobb County PCR Positivity Rate < 5% (7-day average) and 0 COVID cases in the past 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow Sick school policy including COVID isolation
Level 0	Vaccine availability for all staff and students (NOT REQUIRED) and 0 COVID cases in the past 90 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No COVID Protocols