



1159 Abbott Road
Buffalo, New York 14220
Phone: (716) 821-1903
Fax: (716) 342-2222

November 18, 2021

Dear Global Concepts Staff and Families,

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update that all Erie County school districts have been following: the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Guidance for Classroom Instruction instead of the current Erie County Department of Health Guidance. This change brings Erie County schools in line with all other school districts in the state, since Erie County was the only county which had issued its own guidance.


Overall, this does not have a significant impact on how we operate. We will continue to implement all of the same in-building layered mitigation strategies that we have since the beginning of school. As I continue to emphasize, we are still operating schools in the midst of a global pandemic. So, while the risk profile of being in a school has changed, due to vaccines and treatments, the importance of mask wearing, physical distancing as required and appropriate, hand hygiene, and not sending your child to school if they have COVID-like symptoms are no less diminished.

Among the changes that you might experience under the NYSDOH Guidance:

- We will no longer be requiring all students in a class to quarantine if there are two, or more, positive cases in that class in a 10-day period. There currently is no published research to support that provision, and there is no such requirement in the NYSDOH Guidance. However, all current quarantines ordered by the ECDOH must be completed before that individual can return. NYSDOH contact tracing and quarantining guidelines, which were the same as the ECDOH guidelines except for the provision that I referenced above, will continue to be followed. Global Concepts Charter School reserves the right to put in more restrictive school or classroom quarantines if deemed necessary.
- We will no longer be requiring unvaccinated student athletes to be placed on pause if there is a positive case on a team. In partnership with ECDOH, we will follow NYSDOH contact tracing guidelines and place only unvaccinated close contacts under quarantine. All students currently on pause will remain so until the time of that pause has expired.
- Effective November 18, 2021, students are no longer required to complete the daily health check because it is not required by the NYSDOH Guidance. However, it is critically important that all of us monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and stay home if we are experiencing them. We encourage all families to monitor their child's health and to stay home from school and contact the school nurse if they are not feeling well. Families will continue to be offered daily health screens, including reminders through Pikmykid and Google Forms. Temperature checks will continue to take place at the entrance of each building daily.

Thank you to everyone for ensuring that our children learn and grow through the strength of partnership between our schools and families.

Sincerely,



Tracy McGee,
CEO

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*Global Concepts Charter School does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, or handicapping condition. * Excellence in Educational Programming*

