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Greenfield-Central Families,

This morning at 10am, the State Department of Health released updated COVID-19 quarantine guidance for schools that becomes effective on February 23rd. We have included a few of the highlights from this update in the following statements:

- Schools should **continue to isolate COVID-19 positive individuals** for at least 5 days per guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- A **negative test or doctor's note is no longer required** to return to school. Students should not return to school unless they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- The State Department of Health **no longer recommends contact tracing and quarantining** in schools.

As a result of these updates, Greenfield-Central Schools will no longer identify close contacts, and we will not quarantine students who were previously excluded from school simply because they were in a close proximity to a COVID positive student.

Additionally, the current mask mandate for Greenfield-Central Schools will end on Tuesday, February 22nd. **Masks will be optional beginning on Tuesday morning for all students and staff inside our schools.** *Please note that masks will still be required on Greenfield-Central school buses at this time. This is still a federal requirement established by the Department of Transportation.*

We understand that the last 22 months have included many updates and revisions to the way we operate school during a pandemic. As we receive additional information or guidance from the state or local health departments, we will share that information with our school community in a timely manner. Your cooperation and teamwork in keeping students and staff safe during this unprecedented time in history has been valued and appreciated.

Dr. Harold Olin
Superintendent, Greenfield-Central Schools