



GLENN COUNTY
OFFICE of EDUCATION



PRESS RELEASE

May 3, 2021

The committee that is examining various responses to COVID-10 concerns met Friday, April 23. Those in attendance were Scott DeMoss – Glenn County CAO, Dr. Garrison – Glenn County Public Health Director, Laura Medina – Glenn County Public Health, Dwayne Newman – Orland Unified Superintendent, Michelle Dobbs – Orland Unified Nurse, Victor Perry – Orland High Principal, Adam Reimers – Orland High Athletic Director, Jeremy Powell – Hamilton Unified Superintendent, Erin Johnson – Hamilton High Athletic Director, David Johnstone – Willows High Principal, Celeste Baker – Willows Unified Nurse, Korey Williams – Princeton Unified Superintendent/Principal, Kylee Paulos – Glenn County Office of Education Nurse, Tracey Quarne – Glenn County Office of Education Superintendent.

The committee reaffirmed its purpose is to strive to ensure the maximum number of students can participate in extra and co-curricular activities while maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

The committee discussed the notion of athletic practice being conducted in small groups, sometimes referred to as pods or cohorts, instead of one large group. The advantages in practicing in this fashion is close contacts are more readily identifiable and, should quarantining become necessary, the number of participants to be quarantined can be limited to only those in the respective pod or cohort. A majority of the districts indicated they would consider training in this fashion.

The committee also reaffirmed its strong interest in maximizing student participation in activities by continuing the practice of attempting to do contact tracing in the event a student tests positive for COVID-19 to then quarantine only those students who had close contact with the student who tested positive instead of simply quarantining the entire student cohort or team.

The committee also established an operating protocol by defining the district superintendent, or their designee, as the school person responsible for gathering the data presented by the contact tracer(s) to then make the decision whether the contact tracing depicts an accurate and complete record of those individual students who will require quarantining. In the contrary, the superintendent, or designee, will also be responsible to make the decision that the data collected does not accurately and completely depict those who had close contact with the student who tested positive, and will therefore direct quarantining of the entire student cohort or team.

The committee reviewed the definition of a close contact, which is:

A [close contact](#) is someone who was within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before symptoms appeared (or, for patients who do not have symptoms, 2 days before their test) until the time the patient is isolated.

You are also a close contact if:

- You provided care at the home of someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (such as hugging or kissing them).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils.
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

<https://covid19.ca.gov/contact-tracing/>

The committee is considering numerous reports of what appear to be differing standards of participation in track and field events. Once reviewed, the committee will put forth guidance that complies with CDPH and/or CDC guidance for these events.

The committee reaffirmed it is not possible for students to 'test out' of quarantine. This is also in keeping with CDPH guidance.

The committee is developing FAQ's that can be accessed at the Glenn County Public Health website at:

Finally, the committee reaffirmed that a medical professional must release a student athlete who has tested positive for COVID-19 prior to resuming strenuous physical activity, which is aligned with CDPH guidance.

The committee will meet again as needed.

Appreciation is sincerely extended to all who continue to support student activities!

All questions, concerns and comments are requested to be referred to either:

Glenn County Administrative Office

Attention: Scott De Moss, County Administrative Officer

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Glenn County Office of Education

Attention: Tracey Quarne, County Superintendent of Schools

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