



SUPERINTENDENT  
Charlotte Seals

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September 9, 2020

Dear MCS Families,

School is underway, and we are so glad that teaching and learning is taking place on our campuses and virtually. In order to keep on-campus school in session this year, we need the help of our entire MCS community. If your child feels unwell, has been exposed to Covid-19, or has tested positive, it is important that you follow the most up-to-date decision tree guidelines to keep our community safe. That document is attached to this letter and also is available at <https://www.madison-schools.com/Page/40005> on page 16 of the Reentry Guidelines. Please be aware that MCS follows guidance of the Mississippi Department of Health and CDC, and that our decision tree and other materials may be updated as we receive new and additional recommendations from these agencies.

The attached decision tree provides guidance of what to do if a student has symptoms or exposure. Please familiarize yourself with these steps and let the school know if your child has symptoms or a positive diagnosis of Covid-19. It is not an exaggeration to say that it will take everyone working together and following the guidelines for us to be able to continue holding in-person school.

Check your children every morning for signs of illness. The only way we will be able to stay in school is if people who are sick stay home and stop the spread. As a reminder, symptoms of Covid-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea. If your child has had close contact with a Covid-19 patient, follow the attached guidelines and keep your child home. In fact, we have removed policies related to perfect attendance from our student handbook in an effort to reinforce the importance of students staying home if there is any question regarding their health. This is not the year to take any chances.

No matter how many precautions we take during the school day, the school district alone cannot stop the spread of illness if students and families aren't taking precautions during the evening and weekends as well. Make smart decisions. Avoid large gatherings. Keep our community safe.

Thank you for all that you are doing to stop the spread: wearing a mask, washing your hands, and watching your distance. And thank you for carefully checking your children for any signs of illness and keeping them home every time they are feeling unwell.

Sincerely,

Charlotte A. Seals  
Superintendent  
Madison County Schools

# COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS

## DECISION TREE FOR STUDENTS

References include the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Madison County School District.

**Absences for Covid-19 issues will not be counted against the student's attendance record.**

**Parents will be notified by school personnel if a student or staff member in their child's class, group, or team has been diagnosed with Covid-19.**

### Definitions

**Close contact:** Exposure that is less than six feet for more than 15 minutes, cumulative in the day.

**Quarantine:** Staying away from all people as much as possible.

**Concentration of cases:** Three or more cases within any group, class, or team. In the event of a concentration of cases, all group members should quarantine for 14 days.

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### Parent notifies school that student has tested positive for COVID-19

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home for 10 calendar days from date of onset of symptoms, **and**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

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### At Home Procedure: Parent notifies the school that student has COVID-19 symptoms

Student should be tested for Covid 19.

#### Negative Test Result

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home until fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

#### Positive Test Result

Return to school after:

- Quarantine for 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms, **and**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

# COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS

## DECISION TREE FOR STUDENTS *Continued*

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### **At School Procedure: Student notifies school staff that he/she has COVID-19 symptoms.**

Student notifies staff member and is taken to the sick room on campus for temperature check. Parents will be notified and contacted to pick up student. Student should be tested for COVID-19.

#### **Negative Test Result**

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

#### **Positive Test Result**

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home for 10 days from date of onset of symptoms, **and**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

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### **Student/parent reports that student has had close contact with a COVID-19 patient, or student is identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case at school.**

Student must quarantine at home for 14 days. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Student may return to school after the 14 days provided the student experienced no symptoms of illness during quarantine.

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### **Concentration of cases**

If a class, group, or team of students has three or more cases of COVID-19, the entire class, group, or team must quarantine at home for 14 days.