

**Working Document**

Updated August 19, 2021

# MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS BACK TO SCHOOL REENTRY GUIDELINES

Madison County Schools strives to promote a safe and caring learning environment. As we plan for the 2021-2022 school year, we seek to fulfill our District's mission during unprecedented circumstances. Our plan will evolve over the summer and throughout the school year to reflect the latest expert guidance from national, state, and local authorities.



MADISON COUNTY  
SCHOOLS

MARK OF EXCELLENCE

*#MovingTheMark*



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**MADISON COUNTY  
SCHOOLS**

**MARK OF EXCELLENCE**

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

*Madison County Schools* will begin the 2021-2022 school year on-campus and in-person on August 9. To facilitate a smooth start to the school year for students, faculty, and staff, the traditional schedule will be modified on August 9-12 with students alternating in-class instruction with distance learning, with a full return for all students on August 13. We look forward to welcoming students back to our campuses. A remote learning option is also in place for students with serious extenuating health circumstances preventing them from attending in-person learning.

Depending on the impact of COVID-19, the District is prepared for the possibility of a hybrid model of instruction (combining some aspects of the traditional in-school model with distance learning) and, in the most severe instance, total distance learning.

In light of the different grade levels, school population sizes, and campus layouts of the 23 schools in our District, a detailed plan of action for reentry was developed for the 2020-2021 school year, and those plans will be updated by each school for 2021-2022 based on the guidelines in this document.



# LEARNING MODELS

## *Traditional Instruction*

The District is working hard to incorporate many safeguards to help keep our students and staff as safe as possible while implementing a traditional instructional model. To that end, we are introducing three different levels of Covid-19 protocols for implementation on our campuses to align with various and changing pandemic circumstances. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the various levels and expectations and requirements therein.

## *Hybrid Instruction*

If the impact of COVID-19 makes the traditional instructional model impracticable, the District will be prepared to move into a hybrid model. Students will be divided into two groups with an alternating A/B Schedule, alternating face-to-face and virtual instruction during the week.

## *Distance Learning*

If the impact of COVID-19 makes the hybrid instructional model impracticable, the District will be prepared to move into a completely distance learning model and will implement a robust distance teaching and learning plan:

- Develop distance learning curriculum ahead of time to easily pivot
- Train teachers on instruction in a virtual environment for seamless transition to distance learning
- Develop and deploy virtual trainings for parents/families (video vignettes)
- Provide access to virtual lessons for students and parents
- Establish teaching schedule/office hours and communicate the plan to parents

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## *Covid-19 Protocol Levels*

Madison County Schools has established three Covid-19 protocol levels to enable individual schools or in some cases specific grade levels to quickly pivot in response to the changing nature of the pandemic at any point during the school year. Madison County Schools will follow all mandates by the Governor and/or state legislature, when consistent with each other, and actively track school, District, and county Covid data to make decisions about transitioning among levels as necessary. District officials will have the authority to adjust the metrics of this plan based on local and state Covid-19 data.

### **Covid-19 Protocol Levels**

Level 1: Less than 3% of total school population Covid positive over a 14-day period.

Level 2: 3%-5% of total school population Covid positive over a 14-day period.

Level 3: Over 5% of total school population Covid positive over a 14-day period.

### **Outbreaks**

- An individual classroom outbreak will be defined by three or more positive cases within a 14-day period. In this case, early return options related to testing for close contacts may be available.
- A team or group outbreak will be defined by either three or more positive cases or 15% of the team or group, whichever number is higher, testing positive for Covid within a 14-day period. In this case, early return options related to testing for close contacts may be available.
- A school outbreak will be defined by 10% of the school population testing positive for Covid within a 14-day period. A school outbreak will necessitate transition to distance learning for that campus and early return options will not be available.

### **Mask Transition**

Elementary:

- If an individual in a classroom tests positive for Covid, the entire class will wear a mask for a period of 14 days.
- If there is an outbreak anywhere in the school, everyone in the school will be required to wear a mask for a period of 14 days.

Secondary:

If there is an outbreak anywhere in the school, everyone in the school will be required to wear a mask for a period of 14 days.

**Please refer to the following pages for details regarding each Covid-19 Protocol Level.**

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## *Covid-19 Protocol Level One*

### **Masks\***

All faculty/staff and students (PreK-12) will have the option to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. This option will not apply on buses where all individuals will be required to wear masks while on the bus regardless of vaccination status.

\*There may be times when faculty/staff and students will wear masks indoors, regardless of physical distance or vaccination status. Example: A school sponsored trip to any entity/location that requires masks of all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

### **Physical Distancing\***

Schools will make reasonable efforts to limit faculty/staff and students' classroom interactions within a minimum of three feet of physical distance. Schools will make reasonable efforts to limit large indoor gatherings where faculty/staff and students are not able to maintain a minimum of three feet of physical distancing for no more than 15 minutes.

\*The MSDH defines "close contact" for the purpose of contact tracing due to positive COVID cases as less than six feet for an accumulated 15 minutes over one 24-hour period (6/15/24 rule). Further details are provided in the "Contact Tracing" section below.

### **Close Contact Tracing**

If COVID positive faculty/staff or students are identified to have been at school 48 hours prior to their positive diagnosis or symptoms onset, all individuals within six feet for an accumulated 15 minutes over a 24-hour period will be identified as "close contacts." An exception can be made when all students are masked and no closer than three feet.

1. Schools will continue to contact trace according to the above definition when made aware that an individual has tested positive for COVID.
2. All forms of communication with parents regarding the presence and proximity of COVID positive individuals at school and related school sponsored events will continue.

### **Isolation and Quarantine\***

Individuals identified as COVID positive will be isolated at home for 10 days from either their onset of symptoms or day of positive test if asymptomatic. Individuals identified as a "close contact" to a positive COVID case will quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days if they are asymptomatic and do not submit to any form of COVID testing.

\*Isolation is required for ALL positive COVID cases regardless of vaccination status.

\*Quarantine is not mandatory for any close contacts who are fully vaccinated.

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# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## *Level One (continued)*

\*Early return options and quarantine exceptions will be in effect for this school year and are explained further in the “Close Contact Testing” section.

### **Close Contact Testing\***

All asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts will be afforded the opportunity to shorten or avoid quarantine if they consent to specific COVID testing guidelines.

\*\*The same early return options from last school year will still be in place.

- Return on day eight if a negative result can be presented on a Covid test taken on or after day five of the quarantine period.
- Return on day 11 without a required test if the individual remains asymptomatic for the entire 10-day quarantine period.

COVID ANTIBODY TESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN ANY FORM TO AVOID QUARANTINE.  
ANYONE WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID IN THE PREVIOUS 90 DAYS IS EXCLUDED FROM  
QUARANTINE AND ANY TESTING FOR EARLY RETURN.

### **School Visitor Protocols**

Principals may allow school visitors at their discretion.

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## *Covid-19 Protocol Level 2*

### **Masks\***

All faculty/staff and students (PreK-12) will have the option to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status, provided that physical distancing of a minimum of three feet can be maintained. This option will not apply on buses where all individuals will be required to wear masks while on the bus regardless of vaccination status.

1. If faculty/staff and students are in an indoor setting where a minimum of three feet of physical distance cannot be maintained, universal mask use regardless of vaccination status will be required to the extent practicable.
2. Mask use will not be required, regardless of physical distance or vaccination status, in settings where faculty/staff and students are participating in physically strenuous activities. (Ex. PE classes, sporting activities/events.)

\*There may be times when faculty/staff and students will wear masks indoors, regardless of physical distance or vaccination status. Example: A school sponsored trip to any entity/location that requires masks of all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

### **Physical Distancing\***

Schools will maintain a minimum of three feet of physical distance between faculty/staff and students when the activity is longer than 15 minutes.

1. All schools will modify classrooms and instructional delivery to avoid activities that bring individuals within three feet of each other for more than 15 minutes, unless impracticable.
2. All schools will avoid large, indoor gatherings that bring individuals within three feet of each other for more than 15 minutes (Ex. break, lunchroom, etc.).

\*The MSDH defines "close contact" for the purpose of contact tracing due to positive COVID cases as less than six feet for an accumulated 15 minutes over one 24-hour period. (6/15/24 rule). Further details provided in the "Contact Tracing" section.

### **Close Contact Tracing**

If COVID-positive faculty/staff or students are identified to have been at school 48 hours prior to their positive diagnosis or symptom onset, all individuals within six feet for an accumulated 15 minutes over a 24-hour period will be identified as "close contacts." An exception can be made when all students are masked and no closer than three feet.

1. Schools will continue to contact trace according to the above definition when made aware that an individual has tested positive for COVID.
2. All forms of communication with parents regarding the presence and proximity of positive COVID individuals at school and related school sponsored events will continue.

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# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## *Level 2 (continued)*

### **Isolation and Quarantine\***

Individuals identified as COVID positive will be isolated at home for 10 days from either their onset of symptoms or day of positive test if asymptomatic.

Individuals identified as a “close contact” to a positive COVID case will quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days if they are asymptomatic and do not submit to any form of COVID testing.

COVID related absences for students will count as a school related absence.

\*Isolation is required for ALL positive COVID cases regardless of vaccination status.

\*Quarantine is not mandatory for any close contacts who are fully vaccinated.

\*Early return options and quarantine exceptions will be in effect for this school year and are explained further in the “Close Contact Testing” section.

### **Close Contact Testing\***

All asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts will be afforded the opportunity to shorten or avoid quarantine if they consent to specific COVID testing guidelines.

The same early return options from the 2020-2021 school year remain in place:

- Return on day eight if a negative result can be presented on a Covid test taken on or after day five of the quarantine period.
- Return on day 11 without a required test if the individual remains asymptomatic for the entire 10-day quarantine period.

\* Quarantine is NOT required at any point for vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic.

\*\* Tests administered at a medical clinic at the expense of the individual.

COVID ANTIBODY TESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN ANY FORM TO AVOID QUARANTINE  
ANYONE WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID IN THE PREVIOUS 90 DAYS IS EXCLUDED FROM  
QUARANTINE AND ANY TESTING FOR EARLY RETURN.

### **School Visitor Protocols**

Principals may allow school visitors at their discretion.

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## *Covid-19 Protocol Level 3*

### **Masks\***

All faculty and students (PreK-12), regardless of vaccination status, will wear masks at all times practicable while indoors and on buses.

\*Current MSDH guidance does not generally recommend the wearing of masks in outdoor settings, except in crowded outdoor settings or during activities of close prolonged contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

### **Physical Distancing\***

Schools will maintain a minimum of three feet of physical distance between faculty/staff and students within classrooms and groups.

1. All schools will avoid bringing large groups of faculty/staff and students within three feet of each other indoors, unless impracticable (Ex. On buses with heavy ridership, teams/groups that cannot function outside of a minimum of three feet, etc.).
2. Classrooms will be arranged and instructional delivery will be modified to ensure a minimum of three feet between students and faculty/staff at all times practicable.

\*The MSDH defines "close contact" for the purpose of contact tracing due to positive COVID cases as less than three feet for an accumulated 15 minutes over one 24-hour period. (6/15/24 rule). Further details provided in the "Contact Tracing" section.

### **Close Contact Tracing**

If positive COVID faculty/staff or students are identified to have been at school 48 hours prior to their positive diagnosis or symptoms onset, all individuals within six feet for an accumulated 15 minutes over a 24-hour period will be identified as "close contacts." An exception can be made when all students are masked and no closer than three feet.

1. Schools will continue to contact trace according to the above definition when made aware that an individual has tested positive for COVID.
2. All forms of communication with parents regarding the presence and proximity of positive COVID individuals at school and related school sponsored events will continue.

### **Isolation and Quarantine\***

Individuals identified as COVID positive will be isolated at home for 10 days from either their onset of symptoms or day of positive test if asymptomatic.

Individuals identified as a "close contact" to a positive COVID case will quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days if they are asymptomatic and do not submit to any form of COVID testing.

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# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## *Level 3 (continued)*

COVID-related absences for students will count as a school-related absence.

\*Isolation is required for ALL positive COVID cases regardless of vaccination status.

\*Quarantine is not mandatory for any close contacts who are fully vaccinated.

\*Early return options and quarantine exceptions will be in effect for this school year and are explained further in the “Close Contact Testing” section.

### **Close Contact Testing\***

All asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts will be afforded the opportunity to shorten or avoid quarantine if they consent to specific COVID testing guidelines.

\*\*The same early return options from last school year will still be in place.

- Return on day eight if a negative result can be presented on a Covid test taken on or after day five of the quarantine period.
- Return on day 11 without a required test if the individual remains asymptomatic for the entire 10-day quarantine period.

\* Quarantine NOT required at any point for all vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic.

\*\* Tests administered at a medical clinic at the expense of the individual.

COVID ANTIBODY TESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN ANY FORM TO AVOID QUARANTINE.

ANYONE WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID IN THE PREVIOUS 90 DAYS IS EXCLUDED FROM QUARANTINE AND ANY TESTING FOR EARLY RETURN

### **School Visitor Protocols**

Outside visitors to campus will not be allowed.

# PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

## *Overview*

- Parents/guardians should perform an assessment of their child(ren)'s health before leaving home. If your child feels unwell, or has any of the following symptoms, please do not allow him or her to come to school and contact your healthcare provider. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: 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.
- The District plans to start the school year with optional face coverings, but masks may become necessary during the course of the school year depending upon local, state, or national requirements or increased spread of illness. Please consult the Covid-19 protocol levels for detailed information.
- Students, faculty, and staff should socially distance when practicable.
- Students, faculty, and staff should stay home when they are sick, when they have a temperature of more than 100°F (38°C), or when they do not pass the daily at-home screening examination. For updated information concerning attendance policies and related exemptions, please refer to the 2021-2022 student handbook.
- Students and staff who live with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home from school until the risk of transmission has passed.
- Persons with COVID-19 should isolate for 10 days and also be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Everyone should practice good hygiene measures such as handwashing often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Faculty and staff will assist in monitoring students for symptoms and will refer anyone with symptoms to the school nurse/school designee for evaluation.
- Hand sanitizer will be on all buses, in hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, and at school entrances and exits. Hand soap and paper towels will be in all bathrooms.
- Stations will be set up to quarantine students with symptoms.

# CLEANING PROCESSES & PPE

1

## PROCESS FOR FULFILLMENT AND RESUPPLY OF PPE FOR SCHOOLS

- Prior to the start of school, the District is providing each school with cleaning supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Each school will have:
  - 60% alcohol or higher hand sanitizer for each classroom and office space
  - Disinfectant spray for each classroom and office space for disinfecting surfaces
  - Disinfectant wipes for each classroom and office space for disinfecting surfaces
  - Back up face masks for faculty, staff, and students (including child sized masks for K-5)
  - Face shields for teachers
  - Hand sanitizer stands at the main entrance of each school
- Schools will be provided with additional PPE and cleaning supplies as needed through requisition from the District warehouse

2

## REGULAR CLEANING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- High-touch areas of classrooms will be sanitized by faculty and staff as needed and as practicable. Halls and bathrooms will be sanitized throughout the day by custodial staff.
- Employees will be advised in cleaning and safety protocols at each school site.
- A regular cleaning schedule will be established for daytime and afterhours sanitation of school buildings by school custodians, janitorial services, and/or contracted professional cleaning services.
- Schools will be deep-cleaned consistent with District directives.
- Over the summer and early fall of 2021 bipolar ionization equipment will be installed in HVAC systems in all schools to clean the air.

# SCHOOL DAY

## PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

### 1

## ENTERING AND LEAVING SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Each campus will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures to include, but not limited to:

- Provide hand sanitizer for students, faculty, and staff
- Eliminate unnecessary congregations of students, faculty and staff
- Implement social distancing as practicable
- Designate entrance and exit flow paths
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and its symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/District specific protocols
- Establish a protocol for students, faculty, and staff who feel ill or experience symptoms when they come to school
- Isolate and send home individuals who are ill, experience symptoms, or have a temperature of over 100°F (38°C)
- Adhere to District protocols regarding school visitors (see Visitors section below)
- Establish a protocol for student pick/drop off: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup
- Isolate and send home if student or staff temperature is over 100°F (38°C)

### 2

## VISITORS

- Visitors to campus should go directly to the school office area.
- Classroom and lunchtime visits will be permitted as practicable on campuses with no or very low Covid-19 case numbers. Please consult the Covid-19 protocol levels for detailed information concerning under what levels visitors are permitted.
- Visitors should be symptom free and follow all school guidelines concerning health and safety.

# SCHOOL DAY

## PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

3

### TRANSITIONING FROM CLASS TO CLASS

In the event that Covid case numbers necessitate alterations to standard operating procedures, schools will implement additional measures which may include but are not limited to:

- All students, faculty and staff to wear cloth face coverings at all times practicable during class changes.
- Provide additional time for transitions and class changes.
- Implement staggered class changes, e.g., by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade or subject to decrease numbers in halls at one time.
- Limit mixing of students to extent possible.
- Keep students static and move faculty to limit interactions to extent practicable.
- Conduct cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day (see Regular Cleaning of School Buildings above)
- Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to keep students separated to the extent practicable.

4

### GROUPS AND LARGE GATHERINGS

In the event that Covid case numbers necessitate alterations to standard operating procedures, schools will implement additional measures which may include but are not limited to:

- Eliminate congregation of students in parking lots and common areas
- Stagger schedule for group gatherings such as recess and meals
- Use multiple large spaces such as gyms, auditorium, outside spaces as weather permits for social distancing during mealtimes and other gatherings
- Follow MHSAA guidelines for events and practices

5

### GUIDELINES FOR ARTS AND ATHLETICS

*(recess, physical education, and extracurricular activities)*

Each school has developed protocols to maintain health and safety during arts, chorus, band, and athletics and activities, utilizing the guidelines included throughout this document.

# INSTRUCTION

## SUPPORTING TEACHING & LEARNING

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures to include, but not limited to:
  - Use the master schedule to balance class numbers as much as possible and remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms to maximize social distancing
  - Clean classrooms and high-touch surfaces often and provide hand sanitizer, tissues, etc., for proper hygiene
  - Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing when warranted due to increasing Covid case numbers
- Support social and emotional needs
  - Provide teacher training to help recognize signs of anxiety, concerns with coming back to school
  - Provide training for counselors on appropriate interventions and supports.
  - Develop strategies at each campus to help students transition back to face-to-face instruction.
- Establish an academic baseline
  - Administer formative assessments toward the start of the school year.
  - Conduct meetings with teachers to identify where students are academically behind.
- Discuss the shared experience
  - Help children and teachers cope with changes.
  - Plan best ways to talk to children about COVID-19.
- Target interventions and supports
  - Provide additional instructional supports to:
    - students at-risk of not graduating on time
    - students with disabilities (compensatory services)
    - students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment (i.e. early grades, English Learners, etc.)
    - other students identified by teachers and parents as being behind academically.
  - Identify essential concepts/skills/grade levels and provide access to enrichment.
- Address learning gaps
  - Help students catch up/get ahead
  - Provide extended learning opportunities
- Implement remote learning program for students unable to attend in-person school due to medical conditions.
- Prepare for potential future distance/remote learning by increasing current blended learning:
  - Develop a digital learning plan
  - Integrate distance learning practices
  - Provide distance learning-specific professional development for educators



# TRANSPORTATION

## BUS SERVICE

Transportation service provider Durham School Services works closely with the District and schools to follow safety protocols of the District, local and state government, and the Mississippi Department of Health and CDC. Parents are a key partner in helping make school transportation safe and effective this year. Due to a shortage of bus drivers, routes may be combined so that all students needing transportation can receive service. This situation may result in longer ride times. Parents should be aware that while Durham strives to have the same students on each bus each day to reduce the potential for close contact, the driver shortage and need to combine routes may make doing so impossible.

- All students and drivers are required to wear cloth face coverings while on school buses.
  - Drivers will be equipped to provide a District-supplied disposable face covering to any student who has lost or forgotten to wear a face covering.
  - Drivers will report any violations of face covering policy to school administrators.
- Social distancing is employed to the extent possible on each bus but cannot be guaranteed.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to bring students to school in order to reduce the number of bus riders and better enable social distancing among children who do use the buses. Those using the bus are encouraged to have a consistent transportation plan, with students leaving from and coming to the same address each day. Consistency enables the group of riders on a bus to be the same each day, decreasing the number of students who may come into close contact with one another.
- As feasible, morning routes will load students into assigned seats from the back of the bus to the front. Afternoon routes will seat students in bus stop order with first stop at the front and riders who stop last seated at the back of the bus.
- As feasible, students will be assigned to the same bus in the morning and the afternoon to support the seat assignment system and limit close contact. Due to a shortage of available bus drivers, some routes may be combined and assigned seating cannot be guaranteed.
- Hand sanitizer is provided for students and bus drivers.
- Drivers are asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home when feeling ill.
- Buses are sanitized following both the morning and afternoon routes, and buses are aired out between uses as practicable.

# FOOD SERVICES

## CHILD NUTRITION

- Provide for student hand washing/hand sanitizing before and after meal service.
- Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines to the extent practicable and designate entrances and exit flow paths.
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- Schools may employ alternative serving models for meals when appropriate due to increasing Covid case numbers:
  - Serving meals in classrooms
  - Serving meals in cafeterias with:
    - Spaced serving lines (marked on floors)
    - Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate)
    - Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery
  - Serve meals in multiple socially distanced locations, such as outdoors, in gyms, and in cafeteria to disperse crowds.
  - Follow the District's specific protocols for communication in the event of confirmed cases of cafeteria staff.

# COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS

## WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL

- Each school will have a designated separate sick/isolation room for suspected COVID-19 cases, keeping those students, faculty, and staff away from other types of illness or injury cases that may be seeking treatment or care.
- School nurses and other designee will use standard precautions and transmission-based precautions when caring for sick people.
- Sick staff members and students should not to return until they have met criteria to discontinue home quarantine (see decision tree, page 21).
- Persons with COVID-19 should quarantine for 10 days and also be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Schools will report daily to District officials the students, faculty, and staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and those who are quarantined. Central Office will report such information to the State Department of Health.
- In the event that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the parents/guardians of students who have been in close contact with that individual or who have class with that individual will be notified.
- Students and staff who have close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow the decision tree on page 21 of this document.
- The District will follow the guidelines of the MS Department of Health concerning when it is appropriate for students who may have been exposed to enter self-quarantine and follow the decision tree on page 21 of this document.

# COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS

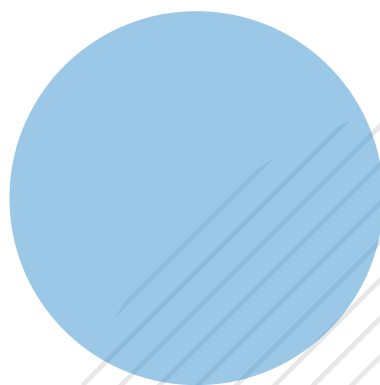
## COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

In the event that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the parents/guardians of students who have been in close contact with that individual will be notified by a school administrator and provided instructions concerning when to return to school. Parents/guardians will also be notified if a person in their child's class, but not necessarily a close contact, is diagnosed with COVID-19 and provided with instructions to monitor for symptoms.

In the event that a concentration of cases necessitates a class or group of students to stay home from school and quarantine, those families will be notified by a school administrator. Instructions concerning quarantine procedures and when to return to school will be provided. See the decision tree on p.20 of this document for more information.

Please update all contact information, including phone number and e-mail, with your child's school so that important school and COVID-19 related communications can reach you. Also, be sure to download the MCS app to your smartphone and sign up for Remind notifications for the latest news and information from the District and your child's school.

In the event that the spread of COVID-19 necessitates the closure of a school building or the District, information concerning such closure will be communicated via multiple available channels which may include: e-mail, phone call, Remind messaging, District smartphone application push, website announcement, parent/student portal news push, and press releases to traditional media outlets.



# 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.**
- **Fully vaccinated, symptom free students are exempt from quarantine requirements due to close contact or a concentration of cases in class or groups/teams.**

### Definitions

**Close contact:** Exposure that is less than six feet for more than 15 minutes, cumulative in the day. An exception can be made when all students are masked and no closer than three feet.

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

**Concentration of cases:** Three or more positive cases within any individual classroom. All other groups/teams define a concentration as 15% of the group/team or three cases, whichever is greater. A concentration of cases in a school is 10% or more of the population Covid positive. In the event of a concentration of cases, all group members should quarantine for 14 days.

1

### 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

2

### 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*

3

### **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.

\*Early Return Options:

- 1) Students who present a negative Covid test result to school officials and have had zero symptoms during daily monitoring may return to school on day eight of quarantine. The Covid test must be taken on or after day five of quarantine. This early return option is not applicable for students who are quarantined due to a concentration of cases.
- 2) Students who have had zero symptoms during daily monitoring in quarantine may return to school on day 11 without testing. This option may apply for those quarantined due to a concentration of cases.

**\*\*Fully vaccinated, symptom free students are exempt from quarantine requirements.**

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### **Concentration of cases**

If a concentration of cases is determined according to the above definition, the entire class, group/team, or school must quarantine at home for 14 days.\*\*

**\*\*Fully vaccinated, symptom free students are exempt from quarantine requirements for classes, groups, or teams.**

