

MNPS COVID Protocols for the Start of 2021-2022 School Year

Updated CDC guidance can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

- School Nurses:
 - The role of the nurse will remain the same for 2021-22.
 - Contact tracing and initial investigations will be conducted by school nurses for all schools.
 - Logging in the District COVID tracking system
 - MPHD will continue receiving this information.
 - ****NEW:** Nurses will test students and employees.
 - Rapid, antigen test will be utilized.
 - Testing consent for employees and students will be required.

- Close Contacts:
 - Definition:
 - Traditionally defined as someone within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes over 24-hour period.
 - ****NEW:** In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition now excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of infected students if both were wearing a mask.
 - ****NEW:** Students or staff who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine if no symptoms are present.
 - ****NEW:** Division of Schools updated distance learning guidelines for quarantined/self-isolating students based on TDOE guidelines.

- COVID Isolation Room:
 - Each school should designate a local for the isolation room
 - The school nurse's clinic should not be utilized for this purpose.

- Mitigation Strategies:
 - Mask:
 - ****NEW:** Effective August 1, 2021, masks are highly encouraged but not required.
 - Schools should continue to encourage proper mask wearing techniques.
 - Students or staff who are not fully vaccinated, especially those who have underlying medical conditions, are strongly recommended to wear masks for their safety and protection.

- Masks will continue to be made available to students and staff who need or want them.
 - Current CDC guidance is that individuals who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks indoors or outdoors.
 - All students who are 12 and older have been eligible to be fully vaccinated through public and private sources, and vaccine trials are still ongoing for children aged 5-12 and younger.
 - Students under 12 not currently eligible for the vaccine are strongly recommended to wear masks.
 - MNPS will continue to monitor community transmission rates as well as COVID cases in our schools to determine whether mandatory mask requirements are necessary.
- Temperature Screenings and Infrared Cameras in schools, support hub, etc.
 - ****NEW:** Infrared cameras and temperature screenings are no longer required upon entry.
 - Schools may utilize the infrared cameras to screen students if hotspots emerge.
- Social Distancing:
 - ****NEW:** CDC guidance looks at 3 feet as a good standard in schools.
 - Classrooms and desks should be oriented to maximize distance or create smaller group clusters to reduce possible close contacts.
 - Schools should continue to find opportunities to encourage and promote social distancing whenever possible.
 - Social distancing is an important strategy in reducing potential transmission.
 - Reduces chances of close contact quarantines.
 - Social distancing of 6 feet of distance will not be feasible in most circumstances.
 - Schools should consider the ability to social distance when organizing large gatherings indoors, during lunch, or other activities that would bring together large groups of students.
 - Clustering of students into homerooms or other groupings that would make contact tracing more feasible are good strategies to prevent the spread of COVID or larger quarantines.
- Signage:
 - ****NEW:** Updated COVID signage should be posted throughout the building.

- Cleaning:
 - MNPS will clean facilities under normal operating procedures.
- Water fountains:
 - ****NEW:** Water fountains and bottle filling stations will be operational.
 - MNPS Maintenance will flush and test water fountains prior to use.
- Notification Letters:
 - Notifications will continue to be sent home by schools when a positive case is confirmed in the building, an individual is determined to be a close contact, and all confirmed positive individuals.
- Transportation:
 - Mask will be encouraged but not required.
 - Bus drivers are encouraged to keep the windows down transporting students to help circulate the air.
- School Events and Extra Curricular:
 - ****NEW:** Outdoor events are preferred.
 - All events should be held outside to the extent possible.
 - Social distancing (at least 3 feet) should be encouraged.
 - ****NEW:** Indoor Events are permissible.
 - Mask are encouraged but optional.
 - Social distancing should be encouraged.
 - ****NEW:** Sports/Choral/Theater Arts are permissible.
 - Masks and social distancing are encouraged for all indoor events.
 - Coaches and teachers should be mindful of social distancing during indoor activities such as performance practice, weightlifting, transporting.
 - Avoid team members exposing each other. Exposure is most likely to occur while with individuals own team and not in the actual game against the opponent.
- Visitors:
 - ****NEW:** Limit guest and volunteers to educational purposes only.
 - Examples include:
 - Mentorship
 - Tutoring
 - Classroom support
 - Advisors
 - Facilities use by third parties are allowed when students are not in classes.
 - Mask wearing is encouraged.

- COVID Testing:
 - ****NEW:** School nurses will be able to conduct COVID rapid tests on as-needed basis for students and staff.
 - Student permission forms are included in the Student-Parent Handbook.
 - Employee permission forms are given by the school nurse.
 - Random testing not recommended at this time but can re-assess as needed.
 - Any use of outside vendor would require an RFP process.