

COVID HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

1. Promoting Healthy Behaviors

Health Pre-Screening for Staff & Students

Parents/Guardians of students and staff will be required to self-screen daily before arriving at school. Anyone with a fever of **100 or higher** should not come to school or a MWPISD facility.

- Students and staff should also prescreen themselves for any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 Fahrenheit
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - If you suspect that your child may have symptoms of COVID-19, please make sure the child sees a health care provider immediately.
- Students and staff may be subject to temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.
- All staff will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are present. According to the assessment of the nursing staff, a treatment plan will be determined. Parents will be contacted to pick up students who are unable to remain at school, and the students return to school plan will be discussed. Students should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.

- Students and staff will be required to report to MWPISD if a) they have come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19; or b) they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms; or c) they themselves have been tested for COVID-19.
- MWPISD requires all outsourced vendors (i.e. food service, transportation, custodial, etc.) to pre-screen and check the temperatures of all contracted workers and essential volunteers before they are allowed entrance on campus or on a bus.

Close Contact Defined

- Close contact is defined as:
 - (a) Being directly exposed to infectious secretions. (e.g., being coughed on)
Or
 - (b) Being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomatology may affect this determination.
- Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are test-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two-days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Masks
 - For the safety of everyone, students and staff must wear a face mask and practice social distancing where possible. These times could include entering and exiting the bus, walking during passing periods at school, before-school areas of congregation, etc.
 - Appropriate masks include: disposable masks, washable masks, neck gaiters, etc.
 - Face shields may be worn if there is a six feet distance between each person.
- Mask Exceptions
 - Students will not be required to wear face coverings when
 - Eating or drinking
 - Participating in certain district approved activities per UIL and TEA guidelines

- Participating in P.E. activities that are both vigorous and provide a minimum of 6 feet separation between students.
 - In addition, campus administrators may provide additional opportunities, as needed, for “mask breaks”. These breaks must adhere to a minimum of 6 feet of social distancing and may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Designated and monitored mask free area during recess
 - Designated and monitored class time outdoors
 - Designated and monitored time in the hallway, not during passing periods.
- Masks - Noncompliance
 - Slogans and images on masks must comply with the MWPISD dress code.
 - If students don’t abide by the face mask requirement for In-Person Learning, they may be transitioned to Remote Learning.

Handwashing & Hand Sanitizers

- Staff and students will be encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
- Handwashing tips:
 - Follow these five steps every time:
 - Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
 - Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
 - Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
 - Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
 - Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Social Distancing Protocols

- Students and staff will be trained in proper social distancing.
- Social Distance processes are a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or coming to a MWPISD facility. Anyone causing a disruption or unwilling to follow MWPISD safety protocols, putting students/staff at unnecessary risk may be asked to leave the premises immediately.
- We understand that all students have different needs, but whenever possible throughout the day, students and staff will remain six feet apart. NOTE: it isn't always feasible for staff and students to maintain six feet of social distancing at all times, especially in classrooms.

- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas, including how to sanitize space between use. All students and staff will be expected to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.
- Classrooms shall arrange the desks in a manner that best separates students from one another. We realize that classroom sizes and shapes, as well as student counts, will vary across the district. If six feet of separation cannot be achieved, then students shall be separated to the maximum distance possible within a given space.
- Classrooms should utilize a seating chart so that students have the same seats in the classroom.

2. Maintaining Healthy Environments

Classroom Environment

- Students should be encouraged to keep as much distance between them and others as feasible.
- Desks should be arranged as far apart as the space will allow. Students should sit six feet apart when possible. When six feet spacing is not achievable, students should sit as far apart as possible.
- At the beginning of any class where students will occupy a desk or work area for the first time, teachers will spray disinfectant at each student's work area and the teacher or student will use a paper towel to clean their work surface.
- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.

Cleaning & Disinfectant Protocols

- MWPISD custodial employees have been trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur nightly in every classroom, restroom, commons area, and on high-touch surfaces.
- Routine checks will occur daily to refill supplies.
- The state recommends that each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
- At the beginning of any class where students will occupy a desk or work area for the first time, teachers will spray disinfectant at each student's work area and the teacher or student will use a paper towel to clean their work surface.
- Medical-grade, [CDC-approved disinfectants](#) will be used for deep cleaning campuses on a regular and ongoing basis.

Food Service Safety

- MWPISD plans to utilize the school cafeteria for student meals. *NOTE: No parents/visitors will be allowed during lunch.*
- Cafeteria staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Classes will go to lunch on a staggered schedule to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria each period. The campus may add a lunch period to reduce the number of students in each lunch period as well.
- All cafeteria staff will be wearing masks and gloves while serving students.
- Seats, tables, door handles, and high-touch areas will be disinfected between lunch periods/use.
- Masks will be worn at all times while in line.
- Hand sanitizer will be used upon entry into the Cafeteria line.

3. Maintaining Healthy Operations

Bus Transportation Protocols

- MWPISD will provide bus transportation for all students who register for transportation services and meet the eligibility requirements for transportation.
- Bus drivers will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Drivers will be required to wear a face covering/mask.
- Each student will be required to wear a mask at all times while on the bus.
- Bus riders will be encouraged to sit apart from one another and will be required to sit facing the front of the bus and keep their hands to themselves.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses and are to be used by students when exiting the bus.
- Seats, handles, and high-touch areas will be disinfected after every trip per TEA guidelines, utilizing [CDC-approved disinfectant](#).
- When possible, bus windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

Visitors

- Visitors to campuses will be limited to essential needs on the campus.
- Lunch visitors will not be permitted.
- Main school entrances will be locked immediately after arrival times and remain that way throughout the day to help ensure effective management and safe screening of visitors. Visitors will continue to utilize the outdoor buzzer system located at the entry of every school building. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering the building.
- Volunteers will be limited to essential needs, and approved by school personnel prior to arriving at the school. *Any volunteers scheduled for work at a campus will complete a pre-screening survey prior to entering the school.*

- MWPISD is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet any of the criteria for re-entry to the campus.

4. Preparing for Illness

COVID Campus Contact

- The nurse on each campus will be the COVID Campus Connect person. Their information will be made available to the staff, teachers, students and parents for that campus.
- The COVID Campus Connect Nurse will lead the investigation of any test-confirmed cases and identify any individual who should be considered to have had close contact with the test-confirmed case.

School Health Clinic Procedures

- Temperature and symptoms will be checked by the nurse to determine whether isolation is indicated. A student's medical history will be considered when determining whether a student should be excluded.
- When indicated, a student will be isolated from others until picked up by his/her parent in the campus clinic and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian
- Students who come to the school health clinic showing symptoms will be required to have on a face covering/mask until their parent arrives to take them home.
- Nursing staff and substitute nursing staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- The campus nurse will follow up with the family to discuss the protocol to return to school.
- The nursing clinic will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Protocols for Test-Confirmed Case of COVID-19 at School

Responding to a Test-Confirmed Case

- If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the campus school nurse will notify the health department if it has not been done by the physician's office or lab testing center.
- Areas that are heavily used by the individual with the test-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, (unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus).

Notification of a Test-Confirmed Case

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements. MWPISD will notify staff and students family if a test-confirmed COVID-19. MWPISD notification process is below.

- Upon confirmation of a test-confirmed COVID-19 case, the Campus COVID Contact will begin an investigation. If the results of this investigation provide that close contact was confirmed with any teachers, staff, or students, those specific individuals will receive communication requiring them to quarantine.

Returning to Campus after Recovering from a Test-Confirmed or Suspected Case

- Any individual - including teachers, staff, students, or other campus visitors/volunteers - who themselves have qualified as either of these individuals:
 - **Are test-confirmed to have COVID-19**
 - OR**
 - **Have experienced symptoms of COVID-19**
 - OR**
 - **Have been tested**
- Must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to the campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if the following conditions for campus re-entry have been met.
- **In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19**, the individual may return to school when **all three** of the following criteria are met:
 - **At least one day (72 hours) has passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)**
 - **The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)**
 - **At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared**
- **In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19**, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- **If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period**, the individual must provide one of the following:
 - Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis
 - OR**
 - Obtain an acute infection test that comes back negative for COVID-19.

- **Individuals** - including students, teachers, staff, or other campus visitors/volunteers - **who have had close contact with someone who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19**, as narrowly defined in this document and as determined by the appropriate public health agency, should stay at home through the 10 day incubation period and should not be allowed on campus.
- MWPISD clinic staff will screen individuals after the incubation period has concluded, and if the individual does not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period, the individual can be allowed back on campus. If the individual experienced symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined above have been met.