

MCPHD Guidance on the Re-opening of Schools



Prevent. Promote. Protect.

These recommendations are based on July 2, 2020 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other professional organizations. Implementation of this guidance is based on what is feasible, practical, and tailored to meet the needs of the Marion County community. These are the baseline recommendations. Schools may choose to implement more rigorous protocols.

OPENING DATES

Proceed with pre-established opening dates.

SYMPTOM SCREENING

Develop and implement a symptom screening policy pursuant to CDC recommendations.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Increase access to cleaning supplies for each classroom and ensure frequent cleaning.

Increase accessibility and use of hand sanitizer for staff and students (at least 60% alcohol formulation necessary for COVID-19).

Extend bathroom breaks for adequate handwashing and assure access to warm water and soap.

Clean and disinfect high-touch areas throughout the day.

Clean and disinfect playground equipment on a regular basis.

CLOTH FACIAL COVERINGS AND MASKS OR FACE SHIELDS

Cloth face coverings or masks are required for all teachers, ancillary staff, and students sixth grade or higher.

EXCEPTIONS

1. Any staff or student with health conditions that makes the wearing of a face covering a risk to their health.
2. When staff or students are performing tasks that cannot be completed while wearing a face covering; i.e. eating, drinking, etc.
3. Any student who is unable to remove a face covering on their own.
4. When the wearing of a face covering or mask by a teacher is determined to impede a student's learning for students for grades Pre-K through grade 5, a face shield may be considered for use by the teacher.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

According to the latest guidance of the American Academy of Pediatrics, students should be seated 3-6 feet apart. Further, students should be seated facing in one direction to facilitate social distancing. (CDC recommends 6-feet spacing when feasible)

Eliminate the use of pods or table style seating as much as possible.

Arrange for teacher to maintain a distance of 6-feet from students when feasible.

Extend or stagger passing periods.

Consider moving some classes outside if possible.

Do not allow nonessential visitors.

Do not use attendance incentives for students.

Large areas such as cafeterias, auditoriums, and gymnasiums should be utilized cautiously to ensure social distancing of at least 6-feet between people with special emphasis on reducing crowding in the space while entering or exiting.

COHORTING

Cohort students as much as possible using a team approach; the same students stick together and rotate as a team.

Students should go to recess as a cohort, avoiding contact physical activity and encouraging social distancing as much as feasible.

Assign team to a room and consider teachers rotating.

Maintain a permanent seating chart for each class to facilitate contact tracing.

Students should eat together as a cohort while seating in a socially distance configuration utilizing a normal sanitary dishwashing process or disposable plates and silverware. Salad bars and self serve buffets should not be permitted.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

Designate an area where symptomatic students can wait for pick-up separate from clinic area.

Use water stations for cup or bottle refills only and consider increased availability of bottled water.

Limit items that need to be shared between students. Each student should have their own designated supplies.

Encourage frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing at the minimum: upon arrival at school, before and after recess, before and after eating, and after using the restroom.

Require all students who are sick to be fever free for at least 72 hours before return to school.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation by personal vehicle is encouraged.

Drivers should wear face coverings.

Use assigned seating.

Space students apart as much as is feasible (CDC recommends 6-foot spacing when feasible).

Students are expected to wear a face covering or mask during transportation.

Open windows for cross ventilation as weather permits.

Consider alternate routes to reduce duration of trips (as possible).

COVID POSITIVE SYMPTOMATIC

Exclude from school.

Return to school if at least 72 hours have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Ask these three questions (all yes, ok to return):

1. Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
2. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever?
3. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

COVID POSITIVE ASYMPTOMATIC

Exclude from school.

Return to school 10 days from the positive test assuming no symptoms developed.

NO COVID TEST SYMPTOMATIC

Exclude from school.

Return to school if at least 72 hours have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Ask these three questions (all yes, ok to return)

1. Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
2. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever?
3. Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

REPORTING CASES

Designate a contact person or team within each school; preferably the school nurse.

Report cases to your district health administrator. He or she will then contact Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) for guidance regarding possible closure, cleaning and parental notification.

MCPHD will provide training to the health staff of all districts mid-July 2020.