



Covid-19 Guidance for Parents



Revised March 4, 2022

Dear Parents,

Beginning Monday, March 7, we will temporarily suspend our enforcement of the mask mandate at school. Please note that the suspension is temporary and subject to change based on outcomes in the pending litigation, and/or guidance from federal, state, and local health departments.

One thing we know for certain is that parents and staff each have a personal reason for making the choices they do. We also know parents, students and staff understand the importance of respect, compassion, and empathy despite differences in opinion. We sincerely hope that as we temporarily suspend the enforcement of masking everyone will remain committed to understanding and respecting the personal choices that family and staff will make.

1. If your family would like to continue to have your child wear a mask at school, please send your child to school wearing mask and we will continue the same mask procedure with your child.
2. If your child comes to school without mask, we will consider it as “no mask for my child” message.

*Please be aware that as soon as your child will see some of the students without masks, your child may refuse wearing mask as well. **If your family would like your child to continue wearing masks, please discuss your family’s expectations with your child.***

3. Wearing masks for staff is optional as well.
4. The executive order doesn’t change the State of Illinois’ vaccination or testing requirements, which follows current CDC recommendations to screen unvaccinated school staff.

We will maintain many of our other mitigation strategies, including daily cleaning and sanitizing, high quality ventilation, hand hygiene, and staying home when sick.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and grace as we navigate these challenging times.

What Do I Do Now? Exclusion Guidance

1. Positive for COVID-19 - 5 Day Exclusion Period + Mask for 5 more days

- a) Exclusion through day 5 with release on day 6.

Exclusion is calculated 5 days from the date of symptom onset (or date of positive test for asymptomatic individuals).

- b) After returning to school, the student or staff member should wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.

- c) If not able or willing to wear mask for 5 days after returning, the student or staff member should stay home for 10 days from the date of symptom onset (or date of positive test for asymptomatic individuals).

Note: A student who tests positive will still be excluded even if they obtain a negative test result from other tests.

2. Vaccinated or Lab Tested Positive for Covid-19 for the last 90 days and a Close Contact - No Exclusion Period

(Unless your child develops symptoms)

The student or staff member must wear a mask at school for 10 days after exposure.

3. Unvaccinated and a Close Contact - 5 Day Exclusion Period + Mask for 5 more days

- a) Exclusion through day 5 with release on day 6. Exclusion is calculated 5 days from the date of last contact.
- b) After returning to school, the student or staff member should wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.
- c) If not able or willing to wear mask for 5 days after returning, the child or staff member should stay home for 10 days from the date of symptom onset (or date of positive test for asymptomatic individuals).

4. A Close Contact to a Household Member who Tested Positive - 5 Day Exclusion Period + Mask for 5 more days

Note: If your child was exposed to someone in your household and they cannot avoid continuous exposure to the household member, the date your household member ends isolation is your child's last exposure date.

5. Having COVID-19 Symptoms (Who is Not a Known Close Contact or Part of an Outbreak)

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (100.4°F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, runny nose, congestion, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of sense of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches from unknown cause...

Option 1 – Return to School

After receiving a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from a local pharmacy or clinic.

Test must be done within 48 hours of symptom onset.

Antigen tests are not accepted.

Option 2 – Remain Home

- a) If not tested within 48 hours of onset, must stay home for 5 days from the onset of symptoms.

- d) After returning to school, the student or staff member should wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.
- e) If not able or willing to wear mask for 5 days after returning, the student or staff member should stay home for 10 days from the date of symptom onset (or date of positive test for asymptomatic individuals).

*Note: **Your child's siblings** may stay in school if the symptomatic child is tested for COVID-19 within 24 hours of symptom onset (PCR test only).*

If your symptomatic child is not tested within 48 hours of symptom onset, siblings must follow the guidance for Close Contact

Even if your child tests negative for COVID-19, they should not return to school while experiencing certain symptoms (such as fever, vomiting, or diarrhea). Please follow your school's guidelines with regards to when a student can return to school for illnesses other than COVID-19.

This document provides a summary of how a COVID-19 positive, close contact, or symptomatic student may be impacted. Please note, each individual case will be evaluated on its own merits and MCDH has final say on all cases.