

Maryville City Schools

Health Services

COVID-19 Management Plan

Summary of Liability

Maryville City Schools has developed the COVID-19 Management Plan based on expert advice and CDC Recommendations as applicable, enforceable, and responsive within a school system. The district has taken efforts to mitigate risks, but risks of attending public school within a national pandemic exist for students and staff.

Daily Health Checks

All students and staff will be screened following the local, state, and CDC guidelines. Each day, the school or the teacher announcement will include a reminder to notify an adult if symptoms are present: headache, body aches, shortness of breath, feverish, or cough. These students, or students with observed symptoms, will be referred to the clinic for response and observation. For the first four weeks of school, temperature checks will occur for every student and adult entering the buildings. After the first four weeks of school, the frequency of student temperature checks (1-5 days/week) for each school will depend upon the number of high temperature readings in each school. Daily, for the remainder of the school year, adult temperatures will be checked. Families will be asked to be mindful and engage in daily health checks. For students, the school guidelines to check temperatures will be based on the school's clinic data and the following recommendations:

- Low or no incidence of temperature readings, 1 day per week.
- Moderate incidence of temperature readings, 2-3 days per week.
- High incidence of temperature readings or confirmed case of COVID19 in the school, 5 days per week.
- Additional temperature readings as needed throughout the day.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Individuals with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever (temperature 100.4 °F or greater) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. (Retrieved from CDC 6/5/2020.)

Intervention Criteria

- Does the individual have a confirmed temperature (multiple checks with resting period) of 100.4 °F or greater? or
- Does the individual have any of the other above symptoms and have known exposure to COVID-19? or
- Does the individual have an accumulation of prevalent symptoms?

If the individual does not meet the criteria, then STOP here and follow health services student procedures for illnesses. If person meets criteria, then immediately follow the action plan below.

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Action Plan for Active Symptoms

1. Employ Social Distancing Techniques
 - Instruct the individual to wear a face mask, and provide mask if he/she does not have one.
 - Isolate the individual or create distancing barriers from others to the best extent possible.
2. School nurse, or designee, attending to the individual should use standard precautions and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
3. For students, the school nurse, or designee, will contact the parent/guardian to report symptoms and verify any potential exposure to a diagnosed person.
4. Individuals who are sick and exhibit COVID-19 symptoms with a corresponding fever above 100.4 should be sent home, and the parent/guardian will be responsible for making decisions regarding treatment.
5. Students and staff should isolate for 10 days with no symptoms for 24 hours immediately prior to returning, unless:
 - a. A health care provider has confirmed that the individual's illness is not due to COVID-19 because another explanation has been identified (e.g., fever due to urinary tract infection, strep throat confirmed by a positive strep test, rash from poison ivy, etc.). Diagnoses of upper respiratory tract infection, pneumonia, or viral illness, does not exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19 and will not be considered adequate to authorize return to school; or
 - b. The individual has been well for at least 72 hours and has documentation of TWO negative COVID-19 molecular/PCR tests at least 24 hours apart during the most recent absence. Results of tests that precede the dates of the most recent absence are not acceptable, nor are results of antibody testing.
6. Anyone with symptoms awaiting test results should not attend school.

Exposure Descriptions

- Direct Firsthand Exposure (more than 10 minutes and less than 6 feet) with a positive COVID-19 person).
- Indirect Secondhand Hand Exposure (more than 10 minutes and less than 6 feet) with someone who has been in direct contact with a positive COVID-19 person.

Only Direct Firsthand Exposure will warrant a response plan and consideration for quarantine.

For confirmed, documented COVID-19 Cases Involving Students or Staff:

1. District and school administrators will work with local health officials and families regarding confirmed cases of COVID-19. Contact tracing and communication of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be managed on a case-by-case basis, in cooperation with local health authorities. Confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
2. The student/employee with COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to school for a minimum of 10 days. The person must be symptom free for 24 hours immediately prior to returning.
3. All students who have been in close contact (defined by TN Department of Health as within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes) with a confirmed case will need to be isolated at home for 14 days.
 - For younger students, this may apply to everyone in the classroom.

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- For older students (where seating may be well defined and close contacts limited more to social grouping and easier to separate and identify), there may be individuals in the same classroom who are not identified as close contacts and would not require quarantine.
 - The Tennessee Department of Health states it is not necessary to obtain a COVID-19 test for an individual identified as a close contact, unless the individual develops symptoms of COVID-19.
 - A negative COVID-19 test does not reduce the 14 day quarantine period.
 - Close contacts are asked to contact the school clinic if symptoms are observed.
4. All staff members are designated as critical employees. As such, employees may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and the following additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the school community. Employees should report all potential exposure to their immediate supervisor, so that next steps can be determined.
- Pre-Screen: Principal or designee should measure the employees' temperatures and assess symptoms prior to them starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individuals enter the facility.
 - Regular Monitoring: As long as employees do not have temperatures or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their school nurse.
 - Wear a Mask: Employees should wear face coverings (mask or face shield) at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure.
 - Social Distance: Employees should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.

Students who are quarantined based on close contact exposure will not be required to fulfill the re-entry conditions of those students who are sent home and quarantined for a combination of symptoms and fever. However, a student who demonstrates symptoms and fever during the 14 days of isolation should indeed follow the re-entry plan from the onset of those symptoms.

All returning students (with a COVID-19 positive diagnosis or close contact isolated) will be re-admitted through the school clinic and asked several health questions to confirm absence of symptoms. Likewise, these students may be provided more frequent health and fever checks upon the return to school.

Communication

Staff members and parents will be notified of all positive cases of COVID-19 in the schools. The report will include the classification of the active person – student, grade level or certified adult, classified adult, grade level.

Specific families will be notified by the teacher (grades K-3) of the number of symptomatic students sent home daily. All families will be notified by the school of the number of symptomatic students sent home daily.

Instruction for Isolated Students

Students isolated at home for 10 days (suspected/confirmed case) or 14 days (Firsthand Exposure) will continue to receive daily digital instruction. Students will be counted present for attendance purposes during the isolation period as long as symptoms do not prevent them from engaging in the instruction.

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The regular classroom teachers will continue to be responsible for the student's instruction. School administrators will track the extent of absences to engage additional support as needed.

School Closure

Many factors are evaluated when considering school closure including student and teacher attendance rates, availability of substitute teachers, impact on the community, etc. We are committed to working with our local health department and emergency management department when considering a school system closure due to COVID-19 rates of infection. It is difficult to quantify a specific number or percentage that would trigger a closure; however, we will monitor the numbers closely every day and consult with the health department related to an appropriate response. Should our County experience a sharp increase with infection rates and our overall active case were to approach or exceed 1% (1,350), MCS may close for an undetermined number of days. Again this number is just a benchmark and may change with the situation as it plays out during this school year. It may be necessary to close individual schools for short periods of time during the school year due to illness and infections of COVID-19. If a school closure occurs the school will transition to virtual learning classrooms for the number of closed days. This scenario may occur multiple times during the year.

During this COVID-19 pandemic other factors will be considered including, but not limited to the following:

- A sharp rise in the number of new cases in our county
- Number of cases being admitted to the hospital and hospital capacity
- Guidance from the Blount County Health Department
- Recommendation from the TDOE and/or Governor Lee

MCS will be responsive to our community's data and COVID-19 tracking. As needed, we will tighten our restrictions to ensure the safety of our students and staff.