



## MAC Return to Learn 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

### **What will be the biggest changes to in-person school in the fall?**

In order to reopen our schools, we will be implementing some new procedures for safety and health. These procedures will impact how we live, learn and work together in the school building.

Based on guidance from health officials and feedback from parents and staff, these new procedures have been built around the following priorities:

- K-8 students and FSSD staff wearing cloth face coverings at school and on the bus
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces throughout the day
- Monitoring symptoms and temperatures at home before attending school
- Going through screening and temperature checks upon arrival to school
- Maintaining social distancing whenever possible; keeping students in small groups and limiting the mixing of groups; coordinated movement throughout the building
- Hand hygiene practices and education, including scheduled time for frequent hand washing and access to hand sanitizer throughout the building and on the bus
- Increased circulation of outdoor air when possible
- Rearranging furniture to allow for social distancing whenever possible
- Cleaning buses between routes, opening bus windows to increase air circulation, encouraging parents to drive children to/from school if possible
- Adjusting large events, activities and gatherings for social distancing
- Limiting the presence of visitors in FSSD buildings

The two most important strategies to reduce risk and exposure are:

- Maintaining social distancing between yourself and others
- Wearing a face covering

Building these important habits into our routines will be our greatest opportunity to build and maintain a healthy community for our students and staff.

### **What will social distancing look like at MAC?**

In the classroom, seating will allow for social distancing. Extra care will be taken to keep students' belongings separated. Frequently touched items will be cleaned regularly. Additionally, the sharing of materials such as school supplies, electronic devices, books, toys and equipment will be avoided.

**Will FSSD provide adequate supplies to support health and safety precautions?**

Yes. FSSD has ordered and will regularly replenish sanitation equipment for protection against COVID-19. These supplies include (but are not limited to) cloth face coverings for staff, disposable face masks, personal protective equipment (PPE) for nurses, face shields, disposable gowns, disinfectant and cleaning supplies for classrooms, hand sanitizer, infrared thermometers, disposable gloves, and signage to communicate safety procedures and precautions.

**What happens if a student or staff member who has attended school is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

Parents and staff will be notified immediately if they have had close contact with anyone who is diagnosed with COVID-19. HIPAA guidelines will be followed to maintain confidentiality as well as the guidance of public health authorities in making decisions to close classrooms or schools, or to quarantine specific groups of students or staff.

All reports of a positive COVID-19 case, whether self-reported or reported to the district by the local Health Department, will be directed to the designated school/building COVID-19 Response Coordinator. The School/Building COVID-19 Response Coordinator will promptly notify the District COVID-19 Response Coordinators (District Safety Supervisor and District Nurse) of a positive case in schools. The FSSD Response Coordinators will notify the Williamson County Health Department (WCHD), school principal, and the Director of Schools.

All areas of the building that were impacted by the positive case will be closed and remain closed until sanitization, per CDC guidelines, is completed. The need to close a school or building for contact tracing, sanitization purposes, or due to multiple reported cases within a school will be determined by the Director of Schools in collaboration with local public health officials. Students or staff who are quarantined due to a positive test or due to a known exposure will be provided with information of available resources they may need during quarantine. FSSD Coordinator of School Health and the district social workers will be available to direct families to resources during the quarantine period.

**Will students or staff who have been in contact with a person who has tested positive need to quarantine? Will the school/classroom close?**

We will be in close consultation with the Williamson County Health Department to make decisions about the need for individuals or groups of people to be quarantined or tested for COVID-19, depending on the exposure. The FSSD Health Services team will take responsibility for surveillance and follow-up with parents and staff.

Our response and subsequent immediate action steps will be dependent on the situation. For example, the Health Department might recommend a school closure for 2-5 days for cleaning, or they might recommend quarantine for 14 days for a small group of people who had close contact with an infected person. Close contact is defined by health officials as an individual who has been within six

feet of an infected person for more than 10 minutes of time (cumulative).

### **What health screenings are in place for students, staff and visitors?**

Staff are required to complete a daily health screening prior to coming to work. A screening station is also on site for temperature checks.

Parents are asked to monitor their child(ren) before they leave for school. We ask that parents check them for **fever, a sense of having a fever, chills, a cough, sore throat, headache, new loss of smell or taste, or new muscle aches**. Not all children who have COVID-19 will have a fever, so parents should check their children closely for any of the other symptoms.

Anyone, staff or student, with a fever of **100° F** or higher should not attend school.

If any of the COVID-19 symptoms occur, please take the following actions:

- Keep your child at home
- Call your child's school to report the symptoms your child is experiencing
- Call your child's health care provider for advice on managing the illness

We will take students' temperatures when they arrive at school with a non-contact thermometer. Students who have a temperature of 100F or greater will be supervised in a designated room where their temperature will be taken again with an ear or oral thermometer. Anyone who fails to meet the screening criteria or has a temperature reading of 100F or greater will not be allowed to enter the building or participate in any activities or meetings on campus. Students who do not pass the second screening process will be supervised in a designated room until a parent/guardian can pick them up. Parents/guardians should plan in advance for a designee to pick up children if needed. Children who do not pass the screenings must be picked up promptly (within the hour).

Visitors who do not pass the initial screening will be asked to leave the campus, and staff members who do not pass the initial screening should notify their supervisor or program director. To minimize potential exposure, only authorized visitors are allowed entrance past the front office. School staff will receive students at screening stations to prevent unnecessary adult entry into the building. Visitors are restricted from entering the building during the school day unless the visit is deemed essential. Your temperature will be checked if you are planning to stay on campus. If you are not staying on campus and are just making deliveries or pick-ups, you will not require a temperature screening.

### **Will recess be available?**

Yes! Outdoor physical activity is very important for students. We will be encouraging students to engage in physical activity that allows for physical distancing while playing outside.

### **Will the playgrounds be open? Will all students go to recess at different times?**

Yes, our playgrounds will be open for students to use during recess and we will be encouraging opportunities for students to go outside. It will be necessary to coordinate groups of students on the

playground in order to maintain social distancing whenever possible. Students will be instructed to wash their hands after recess.

### **Will students need to wear masks while outside?**

When social distancing is possible, students will not be required to wear a mask outdoors. When students are interacting closely with others, face coverings will be required. FSSD staff members will direct students when a face covering is not needed.

### **How will school arrival and dismissal look from MAC?**

Parents will still enter the building to drop their child off for MAC and to pick them up. Parents will be required to wear a mask while inside of the building.

### **Are adjustments being made to ventilation in classrooms?**

Prior to student and staff occupancy, the HVAC systems in all facilities will be inspected for air quality, including the installation of new filters where applicable. Improvements to climate control systems, and operational schedules will be implemented to minimize transmission. This will include pre-occupancy flushing and air exchanges, consistent ventilation and temperature settings during occupancy, and post-occupancy flushing.

### **Will students have more outdoor activities and learning?**

Teachers are encouraged to use frequent outdoor activities and learning to the degree possible.

### **How will meals and or snack be conducted?**

Schools will identify spaces for students to eat while maintaining social distancing. Some students may eat in locations that are not in the cafeteria.

### **Why should students and staff wear a cloth face covering at school?**

In order to maximize the health and safety of all, staff, students and visitors will wear cloth face coverings at school. The decision to implement mask-wearing includes the following benefits for both children and adults in our schools:

- Wearing face coverings limits the spread of illness, allowing students to be in school and helps keep our schools open. This will help meet our goal to provide maximum in-person learning and schedules in the traditional classroom.
- Wearing of cloth face coverings is consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- FSSD is committed to caring for all students and staff as part of our mission. We show care for others when we wear our face coverings at school. Wearing a face covering helps protect our classmates and teachers/staff who are more at-risk. Wearing face coverings allows everyone to participate in school.

- Wearing face coverings offers an added layer of protection when young students, who are developmentally drawn to each other, do not maintain social distancing recommendations. Children will be able to play together in a more age-appropriate way with this added insurance.

Mask breaks can be provided by supervising staff when the opportunity exists, such as outside, inside during lunch, or inside when children can be appropriately distanced.

### **What if a student or staff member is unable to wear a cloth face covering?**

We recognize that some students and staff will be unable to wear a cloth face covering due to medical conditions, social-emotional needs and/or when the risk of wearing a mask would outweigh the benefit. We will work with students to educate them on the benefits and proper wearing of masks and/or develop a safe alternative when needed and possible. If your child has a medical reason that they are unable to wear a mask, please provide a doctor's note.

### **How often should cloth face coverings be cleaned?**

Cloth face coverings should be cleaned at home after use each day.

### **What will be done to address the social and emotional needs of students at school and at home?**

Now, more than ever, FSSD understands that students will need emotional and social support to manage the challenges that life brings. We know that students have come to us with diverse experiences and therefore have unique needs. To that end, we are prepared to provide various layers of support in the following ways.

We have partnered with a range of professional organizations in order to gain a deeper understanding of trauma informed care. All staff members will have access to training modules on this topic before and during the school year.

School counselors will continue to support all students through the counseling curriculum by providing classroom lessons. They also are available for one-on-one or small group sessions for students, as they normally are. If you suspect your student is struggling and needs additional help outside of school, our counselors can make referrals to outside agencies and are a good first step in getting additional support for your child. Families will receive mental health tips from the school district via weekly/monthly communications.

School social workers will be available to help students and families with accessing basic needs that may have been disrupted during the pandemic. They can help with access to food, clothing, shelter, transportation and school supplies. Additionally, they are available to make home visits if necessary.

District counselors are available to students. They will continue to run various student groups, one-on-one and small group sessions.