

Mankato Area Public Schools Health Protocols

The following guidelines and recommendations are from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) [Best Practices for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools](#) and the Centers for Disease Control - [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#).



Prevention Layers	Protocol
Daily Health Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to arriving at a MAPS building, conduct a Daily Health Screening. Stay home if you have symptoms of illness.
Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All K-8 students, staff, visitors and contractors will be required to wear a face covering while indoors. It is recommended that all 9-12 students, staff, visitors, contractors, and adult learners wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status. Federal regulations require masks on all public transportation, including school buses. Symptomatic individuals will be required to wear a face covering in school health offices.
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff will take reasonable steps to implement physical distancing to provide safe spacing between individuals as practicable for programs held indoors.
Cleaning, Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily routine cleaning and disinfecting will occur in classrooms and common spaces. Handwashing and respiratory hygiene behaviors will be encouraged for all students and staff.
Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MAPS COVID-19 Coordinator will report cases of COVID-19 to MDH. Symptomatic people will be required to wear a face covering and quarantine themselves while waiting to go home. Families and staff are asked to notify the school if they have COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or recently had a close contact with someone with COVID-19. Students, staff or participants who test positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend school or activities until all three of the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive; and They are fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication; and Their symptoms have improved and they feel better.
Close Contact & Quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay home if you have symptoms of illness. Symptomatic individuals will be required to quarantine while waiting to go home. Close contacts will be notified of a positive case and will be strongly recommended to quarantine for 10 days following the MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree for quarantine and illness. In most situations, fully vaccinated people and those who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days will not need to be quarantined unless they develop symptoms at which time they need to stay home and test for COVID-19.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation systems have been adjusted to operate at their maximum operational capacity for fresh air. MERV rated filtration is installed.
Testing & Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAPS strongly encourages the COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible individuals. Unvaccinated staff will be required to participate in weekly testing. Free Zoom Test kits will be available weekly at each school for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated. MDH COVID-19 Testing Recommendations
Visitors & Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings will maintain a daily roster of visitors and volunteers, including name, contact information, date, time, program and site visited. K-8 visitors will be required to wear a face covering. Visitors will be limited during Substantial or High County Transmission levels. It is recommended that all 9-12 visitors wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination

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Note: These protocols are subject to change without advance notice if the public health situation necessitates. Other statewide and/or national protocols may supersede the information above for specific programs.