

2021-2022 COVID Guidelines

Introduction

We are starting the 2021-2022 school year with a number of policies and requirements in place because of COVID-19 due, in part, to the Delta variant. We expect these guidelines to change throughout the year and will update this document to reflect those changes. Our policies are largely determined by rules from the Marin County Office of Public Health and the Marin County Office of Education. If you have questions about these policies please send those questions to Ariel Levin, our COVID Coordinator at covidresponse@mttam.org.

Prevention Measures

Masks

General

Following guidance from the Marin County Office of Public Health, all students and adults will wear masks both indoors and outdoors. Students successfully did this last year and this extra level of protection allows us to offer a Modified Quarantine that will keep more students learning on campus in the case of a COVID positive student. Like last year, students are able to step outside for “mask breaks.”

Eating

Students will not wear masks when eating. At these times students will be at least three feet apart when eating outside or six feet apart if we have to eat inside. We ask that students not share food or bring “birthday treats” for their classmates.

Outdoor, distanced learning

Once the school year has started teachers may also meet with classes outside, distanced, with no masks.

Hand-Washing

We will continue to ask students to regularly wash their hands when returning from playing outside or eating. Good hand hygiene is hopefully here with us for good!

COVID Testing

Surveillance

We plan to conduct surveillance testing of unvaccinated students for the foreseeable future. Testing is done every other week using a saliva-based PCR test. We are looking into other testing methods and programs.

Travel

Families must provide testing that results from travel. Currently, testing is required either:

- On day five of a seven-day quarantine to shorten the required 10-day quarantine
- Five days after arrival if participating in a return-from-travel Modified Quarantine

Exposure

Off-Campus

If a student is exposed to COVID off-campus through after-school activities, sports, or social events the family is responsible for providing a negative COVID test to shorten a ten-day quarantine.

- On day five of a seven-day quarantine to shorten a 10-day quarantine

On-Campus

If a student is exposed to a COVID on campus MTS will provide COVID tests related to quarantine or Modified Quarantine.

Travel

Unvaccinated Student Travel

Unvaccinated students who return from out of state travel must either:

- Participate in Modified Quarantine with a negative test result five days after returning from out of state.
- Quarantine for seven days with a negative test five days after travel
- Quarantine for ten days

We do not currently plan to do a week of distance learning after major school breaks to facilitate out-of-state travel.

Household Member Travel

If other household members return from out-of-state travel we ask that the family carefully monitor for symptoms. If that traveler is unvaccinated we ask that you strongly consider a COVID test five days after that return from travel.

Modified Quarantine

Modified Quarantine Triggers

Marin County is currently allowing a Modified Quarantine under two scenarios:

1. Return from out-of-state travel
2. Exposure to COVID in a supervised school setting if both infected and exposed persons were wearing masks)

Exposure outside of school (sports team, after-school activity, social setting) regardless of mask-wearing does not qualify for Modified Quarantine.

Testing & Rules

- Students are tested five days after exposure or return from travel
- During modified quarantine **students cannot participate in any extracurricular, social, or community activities** including childcare

On-Campus Exposure Modified Quarantine

- We will facilitate a separate lunch and recess for any grade level in a modified quarantine.
- Students are not allowed to ride the bus during modified quarantine. They are also not allowed to participate in cross-grade level carpools

Exposure & Quarantine Periods

Unvaccinated Individuals

COVID Positive

The student must isolate for ten days after the first symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic. Before returning they must be feeling better and fever-free for more than 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.

COVID Positive exposure outside of school - including parents and siblings

It is critical that families let the school know if a parent, sibling, or other household member tests positive for COVID-19.

The student must stay at home and quarantine for 10 days after their last contact with the person who has COVID-19. Quarantine may be discontinued after 7 days IF an exposed person tests negative on Day 5 or later and remains asymptomatic.

COVID Positive exposure at school, both parties wearing masks
Students currently qualify for Modified Quarantine

Vaccinated Individuals

Household Member

If a household member tests positive, the vaccinated individual must quarantine for seven days with a negative test on day 5. They may return to school if symptom-free and with a negative test on day 8.

Non-Household Member

If you've been fully vaccinated and you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others (quarantine). However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public (indoors and outdoors on the school campus) for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Sick & Symptomatic Students

Once again we ask that all students **stay home if sick regardless of vaccination status.**

If a student has any symptoms of COVID-19 (cough • shortness of breath/difficulty breathing • loss of taste or smell, fever [100.4°F/38°C or higher] or chills • sore throat • diarrhea • body ache • fatigue • headache • congestion / runny nose • nausea or vomiting), **they must be tested for COVID-19 or evaluated by a healthcare provider.** If not, they must stay at home and isolate for at least 10 days.

Students may return to school after they test negative for COVID-19 with a copy of a negative test; or, after the school receives clearance from a healthcare provider; and, their symptoms are improving; and, they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Prior to receiving test results of healthcare provider clearance, asymptomatic siblings & household contacts may attend school regardless of vaccination status.

Notify the school immediately if:

- Your student is being evaluated for COVID-19. They may return to school if they provide proof of a negative test or health provider clearance.
- A household member is being evaluated for COVID-19. The household member must isolate. If a household member is identified as a close contact to a known COVID-19 case, they must quarantine as indicated.

Remote Learning During Quarantine

Our primary focus is effective in-person instruction. Running a “hybrid” classroom is disruptive to best-practice teaching, especially for our younger students. With shortened quarantine periods and Modified Quarantine, we hope to have few students missing in-person school days.

Individual Student Quarantine

Our primary goal is for a sick student to recover. Please do not have them engaged in quarantine learning if they are feverish, tired, or otherwise sick. During quarantine, if a student is healthy:

- Kindergarten - 4th Grade:
 - Schoolwork and other ways to engage with learning will be sent home from school when appropriate
 - Homeroom teacher checks in with each family via zoom two to three days into quarantine to discuss ways to remain academically engaged.
- 5th-8th Grade
 - Students will be able to “Zoom In” to core classes to keep up with the material being presented.
 - The focus here is being able to listen in versus be an active participant
 - Teachers are not expected to send lab materials etc. home for quarantined students
 - The advisor will schedule a check-in with the student and family within the first three days of quarantine.

Grade-Level Quarantine

If we have to close a grade level for on-campus instruction, we will offer remote learning via Zoom. The first day will be an asynchronous learning day as teachers prepare for remote learning. After that, the schedule and classes for those days will vary by grade level and be communicated by the Division Head.

On-Campus Volunteers & Events

On-Campus Volunteers

- Proof of vaccination required

Events - No Students Present (Curriculum Night, Grade Level Coffee)

- Outdoor: masks required in crowded spaces
- Indoors: proof of vaccination or negative COVID test; virtual option when possible

Events - Students Present Not During School Day

- Outdoor: masks required
- Indoor: proof of vaccination

Carpooling

There are no restrictions on carpooling. Please know that if a student in your carpool tests positive, the other students will likely have to quarantine for some amount of time. It is important that you keep track of carpooling activities in the case that we have to do contact tracing.

Non-MTS Sponsored Activities

MTS students are required to follow CDC and Marin County Public Health guidelines in all off-campus activities including sports and other extracurriculars.

Smoke & Poor Air Quality Days

Our investment in air purification will likely allow us to keep students in school during periods of poor air quality. These guidelines align with those from Public Health and are based on US EPA PM2.5 Air Quality.

0-50: School as normal.

50-100: Professional community is mindful of students with known conditions.

100-200: Students eat outdoors for limited amounts of time. PE and Recess move inside.

200: Students eat and have light activity PE/Recess inside. 6' spaced, silent lunch.

School may be canceled at the Head of School's discretion under the guidance of MCOE, MCOPH. If that occurs:

- First day - no school, asynchronous learning
- 2nd day on - modified distance learning with understanding that teachers might not have power, their own children at home, etc.