

Madison Public Schools

Reopening Plan Addendum Spring 2022



NOTE: The contents of this plan are proposed and could be impacted based on various factors and conditions such as: the CT State Department of Education acceptance and feedback; CDC guidelines, impact of supply chains; responses to state and national conditions; and/or changes in available staffing.

Masks

Following the expiration of the state's mask mandate, Madison Public Schools will move to a "mask recommended" model for mask wearing. Effective Monday, February 28, 2022 mask wearing in school buildings will be optional for students and staff.

It is important to note that district staff will not be responsible for enforcing parent choice when it comes to mask wearing. If parents would like their student(s) to continue wearing a mask, it is important they discuss that expectation with their student(s).

The following rules regarding mask wearing still apply for all students and staff:

- Under the "mask recommended" model, the Department of Public Health (DPH) retains the authority to impose a universal mask mandate if there is a local or state-wide need due to an outbreak. Local school districts also maintain the ability to institute mask wearing due to local conditions.
- For the five days following the quarantine or isolation period, individuals are recommended to continue to wear a well-fitting mask in all settings.

CIAC Guidance

The CIAC has announced that effective Monday, Feb. 28 masks will no longer be required at indoor or outdoor athletic practices and competitions. MPS will follow this guidance and not require masks for athletes. The following rules regarding masks will be in place effective Feb. 28:

- If student-athletes visit a school with active mask policies they may be asked to wear masks during all non-competitive activities (e.g., on the bench, in the locker room, etc.)
- Mask wearing is recommended for all attendees at athletic events

Desk Shields

Effective February 23, 2022 use of desk shields at lunch in all schools is voluntary.

Testing

For any person (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who tests due to illness, Madison Public Schools will now recognize negative rapid (at-home) COVID tests in addition to the PRC test to eliminate the need to quarantine. Parents and/or guardians should send either the PCR result or a photo of the home test to your school nurse to arrange your student's return to school.

Quarantine Length

The timeframe for quarantine (when unvaccinated and exposed to COVID-19) and isolation (when COVID-19 positive) is now five (5) days. Students and staff may now return to school on day 6 as long as they are completely symptom free. If a student is not symptom free on day 6, a parent/guardian should inform the school nurse that the quarantine period will need to be extended.

At this time, students and staff are not required to provide a negative test to exit quarantine and return on day 6 but that guidance is subject to change. For the five days following the shortened quarantine and isolation, individuals are recommended to continue to wear a well-fitting mask in all settings.

Contact Tracing

In-school exposure poses a lower risk of transmission than activities/exposure outside of school. The Department of Public Health (DPH) no longer considers individual case investigation/contact tracing and quarantine of students and staff with school-associated exposures to be key strategies in routine COVID-19 prevention.

Madison Public Schools and districts across the state are no longer required and will no longer be conducting broad contact tracing in Prek-12 schools. Madison will continue to conduct limited contact tracing as needed in specific cases (such as sports team exposures). Unvaccinated students and staff should continue to quarantine if their exposure comes from outside activities such as contact with a family member or friend outside of school.