

COVID 19 Prevention Plan

Revised: March 2022

School districts are using the MDH/CDC recommendations as a framework from which to develop their locally appropriate plans for 2021-2022 school year while in consultation with county public health departments. Chatfield will be fully in-person this school year. Distance learning/live classroom streaming will not be available. Any student who cannot be at school due to COVID will be given their work to do at home much like any other absence prior to the pandemic.

COVID Mitigation

Strategies being deployed to suppress the transmission of COVID 19:

1. Parents are to keep kids home who are sick and get them tested if they have COVID 19 symptoms. Notify the school nurse.
2. On-site vaccination opportunities for students
3. On-site COVID testing available to students (w/parent permission) and staff.
4. Disposable and KN95 masks will be available for those who want them.
5. 3-foot social distancing in school buildings, when reasonably possible.
6. Alternate activity bus transportation option (parent or other authorized driver may transport students to and from activities).

COVID Sanitation

Strategies being deployed to suppress the transmission of COVID 19

1. Air filter upgrades (both buildings).
2. Hand sanitizing stations located at entries.

The CDC and MDH strongly recommend that students and staff in K-12 schools wear masks and get vaccinated. School districts cannot mandate COVID 19 vaccinations.

Unless local case data suggests otherwise, a mask mandate is the role of regulatory agencies and government. The school district is neither. While a mask mandate does lie within the power of the school district, it will only be considered in situations where the 5-day active case rate (ACR) in our schools is expected to exceed 3% and approach the MDH threshold of 5% which indicates uncontrolled community spread of COVID 19. An ACR of 5% would threaten our ability to maintain in person learning.

This type of layered contingency planning (ACR) was approved for use last year by Fillmore County Public Health and the state epidemiologist. We will continue using this approach to COVID 19 management.

PLAN A (ACR of 0 - 3%)

Three percent of the student population equates to roughly 14 positive cases in either building.

1. Masks are recommended for all students and staff during the school day.
2. Students exhibiting symptoms while at school will be evaluated by the school nurse using the MDH decision tree for schools.
3. Close contacts of positive cases may attend school as long as they are symptom free. Wearing a mask for 10 days is recommended.
 - a. Elementary School
 - i. When there is a positive case in the classroom, parents of students in that class will be notified.
4. Positive Cases
 - a. Positive COVID cases must isolate from school for at least 5 days after the first day with symptoms or positive test results (asymptomatic).
 - b. Students may return to school after isolation provided they are fever free without the use of medication, their symptoms are receding, and they wear a mask during the school day for the next 5 days.
 - c. Calculating isolation and return to school for those that test positive for COVID is as follows.
 - i. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or a positive test (asymptomatic). Day 1 of the 5 day isolation period is the first full day after the symptoms developed or the test specimen was collected (asymptomatic).
 - ii. MSHSL Activities: The MSHSL is not following the new CDC guidance at this time. Participants can practice upon returning on day 6 (see above) but they cannot compete until day 11 as per the prior rule.

There will be situations with unique circumstances. In those cases, decisions will be made on a case by case basis that may deviate from the general guidelines listed above.

PLAN B (ACR of 3 - 5%)

Three percent of the student population equates to roughly 14 active cases in either building.

1. Masks required for all students and staff during the school day. This may be applied to one or both buildings.
2. Students exhibiting symptoms while at school will be evaluated by the school nurse using the MDH decision tree for schools.
3. Close contacts of positive cases may continue to attend school as long as they are symptom free and wear a mask for 10 days following the exposure.
4. Positive Cases
 - a. Positive COVID cases must isolate for at least 5 days after the first day with symptoms or positive test results (asymptomatic).

- b. Students may return to school after isolation provided they are fever free without the use of medication, their symptoms are receding, and they wear a mask during the school day for the next 5 days.
- c. Calculating isolation and return to school for those that test positive for COVID is as follows.
 - i. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or a positive test (asymptomatic). Day 1 of the 5 day isolation period is the first full day after the symptoms developed or the test specimen was collected (asymptomatic).
 - ii. MSHSL Activities: The MSHSL is not following the new CDC guidance at this time. Participants can practice upon returning on day 6 (see above) but they cannot compete until day 11 as per the prior rule.

There will be situations with unique circumstances. In those cases, decisions will be made on a case by case basis that may deviate from the general guidelines listed above.

PLAN C (ACR of 5% or More)

Five percent of the student population equates to roughly 22 students in either building. Implement PLAN C when there is an active case rate approaching and/or expected to exceed 5% of the student population in either building.

1. Consult Fillmore County Public Health.
2. Consult the District Covid Planning Team.
3. The Superintendent will consult the School Board Chair on next steps beyond Plan B. These steps could include consideration of a temporary transition to alternative learning plans such as hybrid or at home learning for classrooms, grade level(s) and/or building(s) as well as restrictions on activities and public attendance at events.
4. An emergency/special school board meeting will be scheduled if necessary.