



# MONONA GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

5301 Monona Drive, Monona, WI 53716 P: 608-221-7660 F: 608-221-7688

## **Frequently Asked Questions 2022**

**This document was last updated on March 1, 2022.**

### **What are the symptoms I need to be watching for?**

Monitoring for symptoms—even mild symptoms—is important, even if you do not believe you have been exposed to COVID.

#### **COVID-like symptoms**

<b>Category A (1 or more)</b>	<b>Category B (2 or more)</b>
<b>Cough</b> <b>New loss of taste or smell</b> <b>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</b>	<b>Congestion or runny nose</b> <b>Nausea</b> <b>Headache</b> <b>Fatigue</b> <b>Muscle or body aches</b> <b>Sore throat</b> <b>Chills</b>
<b>Vomiting*</b> <b>Diarrhea*</b> <b>Fever of 100.4 or higher and/or has taken medication to reduce fever in the past 24 hours*</b>	

*\*Vomiting, diarrhea and fever may or may not be associated with COVID-19. If your student is experiencing only one of these symptoms, they may return to school once symptoms have resolved after 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. A COVID-19 test is not required.*

### **What do I do if I develop symptoms, even if I’m not a close contact?**

#### Families

If your child has one or more of the symptoms from Category A or two or more symptoms from Category B:

1. Keep the student home.

2. Contact [mgsdcontacttracing@mgschools.net](mailto:mgsdcontacttracing@mgschools.net) and your school's attendance email and report all symptoms. Be sure to leave a phone number where you can be reached.
3. A PCR test will be required for symptomatic students. Results can take up to 5 days; families may want to consider getting a PCR test right away to expedite your healthy child's return to school.

School health staff will follow up with you on next steps.

### Staff

If you have one or more of the symptoms from Category A or two or more symptoms from Category B:

1. Stay home from work.
2. Notify your supervisor and the health staff at your school.
3. A PCR test will be required for symptomatic staff; you can not return until your test results are back. Results can take up to 5 days.
4. Request a sub in AESOP if appropriate for your position.

## **What do I do if I've tested positive for Covid?**

**Families:** Contact [mgsdcontacttracing@mgschools.net](mailto:mgsdcontacttracing@mgschools.net) and your school's attendance email and report all symptoms. Be sure to leave a phone number where you can be reached. Currently, you must remain in quarantine for 5 days from Day 0 (Day 0 is either the start of your symptoms or your positive date of test—not when results return). If symptoms have improved and the student has had no fever for at least 24 hours, then they may return to school on the 6th day. Those who return at this point are required to wear a mask at all times on Days 6-10 (except when eating or drinking within 6 or more feet of others). If symptoms have not improved then students must remain in quarantine until they improve.

**Staff:** Notify your supervisor and health team at your school/site. Currently, you must remain in quarantine for 5 days from Day 0 (Day 0 is either the start of your symptoms or your positive date of test—not when results return). If symptoms have improved and you have had no fever for at least 24 hours, then you may return on the 6th day. Those who return at this point are required to wear a mask at all times on Days 6-10 (except when eating or drinking within 6 or more feet of others). If symptoms have not improved then you must remain in quarantine until they improve.

## **How do I know if I'm a close contact?**

The Monona Grove School District is conducting contact tracing as effectively as possible. During times of very high case counts and surges, you should assume you or your child may have had close contact with someone and monitor symptoms very closely every day, regardless of whether you are contacted by our health team.

The definition of a close contact is below for reference:

- You were within 6 feet of a person who tested positive for more than 15 minutes total in a day. (This time does not need to be consecutive; three 5-minute periods over the course of a day is still close contact.)
- You had any physical contact with a person who has tested positive.
- You had direct contact with the respiratory secretions of a person who has tested positive (i.e., from coughing, sneezing, contact with a dirty tissue, shared drinking glass, food, or other personal items).
- You live with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person who tested positive.

### **What should I do if I'm a close contact?**

Reach out to the health team at your school and your supervisor. Based on your symptoms, and when you received your vaccination and/or booster, the health team will determine when you can return to work. In general, if you do not have symptoms and fall into one of the following groups, you do not need to quarantine:

- You are ages 18 or older and have received all [recommended vaccine doses](#), including [boosters](#) and [additional primary shots](#) for some immunocompromised people.
- You are ages 5-17 years and completed the [primary series](#) of COVID-19 vaccines.
- You had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (you tested positive using a [viral test](#))

If symptoms develop, you will need a PCR test and to stay home until the results are in. If symptoms do not develop, it is still recommended that you get a Covid test 5 days after your last exposure to a positive individual. This test could be either a PCR or Rapid Antigen test (not a home test), but is not required.

### **Where do I go to get a Covid test?**

Onsite:

- [Glacial Drumlin School](#) [801 Damascus Trail, Cottage Grove] Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am-1pm
- [Monona Grove School District Office](#) [5301 Monona Drive, Monona] Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8am-1pm

No appointments are currently required and tests are available for MGSD students, staff, and family members. In order to receive a test, participants must register and receive a QR code using the [COVID Connect](#) website. Once you register, head to either GDS or the District Office to get tested. Results can take up to 5 days.

Cottage Grove community sites:

- [Forward Pharmacy of Cottage Grove](#) [429 W Cottage Grove Road] Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm

- [CVS Pharmacy](#) [605 W Cottage Grove Road] Monday - Saturday, 9am-9pm and Sunday, 9am-8pm
- [Walgreens Pharmacy](#) [4518 Cottage Grove Road] Monday - Friday, 8am-10pm, Saturday 9am-6pm and Sunday 9am-5pm

Monona community sites:

- [The Medicine Shoppe](#) [4205 Monona Drive] Monday - Friday, 9am-6pm and Saturday, 9am-1pm.
- [Walgreens Pharmacy](#) [5300 Monona Drive] Monday - Friday, 8am-8pm, Saturday, 9am-6pm and Sunday 9am-5pm
- [Public Health Madison & Dane County](#)
  - [South Park Street Clinic](#)
  - [Alliant Energy Center](#)

### **What is the process if there is a positive case in a classroom?**

Once we are notified that a student in a classroom has tested positive, our health and/or administrative team begins contact tracing for close contacts. This may include reviewing seating charts, reviewing video, talking with the student, etc. Close contacts who are not exempt from quarantine\* are identified, removed from class, and isolated (6 feet or more from others and masked) until families can be notified and students are picked up. During periods that involve extreme surges in case rates, the ability to effectively contact trace is likely to be impacted and you should assume your child may have had close contact with a positive case while at school. Daily monitoring for symptoms—even mild symptoms—is critically important.

A classroom notification will be sent if there is a positive case in your student's *elementary* classroom and the individual was present in the classroom within the period as defined by the CDC and PHMDC (48 hours before illness onset - or if no symptoms, 48 hours before the date of the test). If the individual testing positive was not present during this time, a notification may be sent to the classroom, depending on conditions in the school and in the community. When possible, families of students identified as close contacts will be notified first.

\*See “**What should I do if I’m a close contact?**” above for a description of who is exempt from quarantine.

### **Under what circumstances would an entire school building have to be closed?**

The circumstances vary depending on the cause for the closure:

**Due to staffing shortages:** Nationwide and here in our area, staffing shortages are leading to school closures. Our leadership team is firmly committed to remaining in-person, but staffing shortages are also affecting our schools. We are making every effort possible to maintain safe, in-person instruction. [Click here](#) to read more about how emergency closures will be managed.

**Due to outbreak or spread:** The determination to temporarily close an individual school building or all the schools in the District will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with state and county health departments after monitoring relevant information, including the following:

- Orders from Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) or Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC)
- Active number of COVID-19 cases in Dane County and the Monona or Cottage Grove communities
- Active number of COVID-19 cases within an individual school building or across the District
- Rate of transmission within a building or across the District
- The number of absences among school staff impedes vital school and district functions
- Substitute teacher availability
- The need for school-wide disinfection
- Community hospitalization rate
- District's ability to do contact tracing
- Number of active quarantines
- Other metrics as determined appropriate

### **Are masks required in school?**

With the end of the Dane County mask mandate, it is now up to individual school districts to determine whether to require masks in school. When a mask is required or strongly recommended is based on grade level. \*Please note this timeline has been shortened based on [new guidance from the CDC](#) released February 25.

**Grades 6-12:** Beginning March 1, masks are strongly recommended and encouraged for staff and students during school and after-school activities.

**Grades 4K-5: Beginning March 7,** masks will be strongly recommended and encouraged for staff and students during school.

**Transportation: Beginning March 7,** masks for all riders, 4K-12, will be strongly recommended and encouraged.

### **Why was March 7 chosen?**

We continue to support a phased approach so that family members, caregivers, teachers and staff can prepare our youngest learners for the shift. We know that regardless of how a child feels about changes in the safety plan (whether excited, scared or uncertain), abrupt change is often unsettling for children and requires diligent and thoughtful preparation.

## What is behind the change in timeline?

At the time of the [February 21](#) decision, the timeline was based on the expiration of the Public Health order. School districts were left to determine whether masks would be allowed in school and, although case numbers were decreasing, public agencies had not provided clear guidance on which metrics and thresholds to use. We based our decision on community case rates/spread, district case rates, student and staff vaccination rates, staff feedback, and then-current recommendations from health experts.

Now that the CDC has provided a specific, measurable [guide](#)—based on the total number of new COVID cases, hospital admissions, and hospital beds being used—we have aligned our plan with the new recommendations. Based on what we know right now, we will also use these community level recommendations in determining whether to return to masking. See the image below for prevention steps based on community levels of COVID, then click [here](#) and scroll down to “How CDC Measures the COVID-19 Community Levels” for more details.

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li><a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If you are <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions</li><li>Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li><a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wear a <a href="#">mask</a> indoors in public</li><li>Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li><a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li><li>Additional precautions may be needed for people <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a></li></ul>
People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.		

Source: [CDC](#)

## When are masks still required?

- In the health office/bubble room when displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 before being sent home
- When returning early (Days 6-10) from isolation after testing positive for COVID-19

## A Note About Respecting Others

Our commitment to a physically and socially/emotionally safe and supportive learning environment is unchanged. While many of us are ready to move on without masks, many of us will continue to wear masks. Please talk with your students about why someone may choose to wear or not wear a mask, including:

- Some people have sensory sensitivities that affect their ability to wear a mask.
- Some people suffer from anxiety or claustrophobia when wearing a mask.

- Some people have upcoming travel or events planned and may wear a mask to prevent illness from interrupting those plans.
- Some people are more vulnerable to getting seriously ill from COVID, or may live with someone who is vulnerable or immunocompromised.

Whether your reasons for wearing or not wearing a mask are on this list, it is important to reserve judgment, and to extend grace and compassion to everyone in our community.