

Monongalia County Schools Updated COVID-19 Protocols

Effective February 7, 2022

The ultimate goal of the following protocols is to protect students and staff and prioritize in-person learning.

- Vaccination and universal mask usage are critical to ensuring safe school environments.

What is fully vaccinated?

- Staff members and students age 18 and older:
 - Are fully vaccinated if their primary series is within the last 6 months.
 - After 6 months have received the booster.
- Students ages 5-17:
 - Are fully vaccinated if they completed the primary series.
 - No booster is required.

The CDC recommends a universal indoor mask policy for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status.

COVID Testing

- Rapid and home testing meet the testing requirements.

Quarantining – Contact Tracing in a County with a Universal Mask Policy

- Close contacts regardless of vaccination status may continue in-person learning if they are asymptomatic
- With a universal mask policy there would be no contact tracing during lunch, gym, or extracurricular activities when students are not wearing a mask.
- Parents will be notified by the school's messaging system in the elementary schools when a positive case has been reported in the classroom.
- If students or staff experience symptoms of COVID they are to stay home and be tested for COVID. They are to report positive test results to their School Nurse.
- The following prevention strategies must be in place if contact tracing has been discontinued:
 - Universal mask policy
 - Cleaning and disinfecting
 - Hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette
 - Large group gatherings are to continue to be outdoors
 - Social distancing when possible
 - Availability of vaccinations

When a Student or Staff Tests Positive for COVID

- Isolate for 5 days at home away from others.
- Day 0 is date of positive test.
- Return to school/work on Day 6 if:
 - Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
 - Symptoms are improving
 - Longer isolation of 10 days if person is severely ill or is immunocompromised.
- Students and staff who return on Day 6 must
 - Wear a well fitted mask for days 6-10 inside the school
 - If a mask is unable to be worn then the person will need to remain home days 6-10.

School Closing Due to COVID – A 5-day period to slow transmission

- School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out with COVID