MISSISSINEWA
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Tribe of Excellence

REOPENING PLAN

2023-2024

Introduction

Since the onset of COVID, Mississinewa Community Schools has worked closely with the Grant County Health Department and other local school districts to ensure student and employee safety and consistent, best practices. This has included a regular review of guidance from the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Health, the Grant County Health Department, and other agencies. This document is designed to provide guidance for the reopening of school for Mississinewa Community Schools for 2023-24.

Reopening Status

Mississinewa Community Schools will operate on a normal, in-person schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. Mississinewa teachers will return on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Mississinewa students will return on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

Masks

- At school and on the bus, masks will be optional for all students and staff.

Screening

Students and staff should self-screen each morning before coming to school.

- If you believe your child may be experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19, please keep him/her home from school and contact the school nurse for additional guidance.
- There are many reasons a child may feel ill that are NOT related to COVID-19.
    - If your child is not feeling well and you have no reason to believe his or her symptoms are related to COVID-19, simply report your child sick and keep him or her home until symptoms are improving and your child is fever free for 24 hours.

COVID-19 Positive Guidance

- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and do not test must meet the following criteria prior to returning:
    - Isolate for 5 days
    - Return day 6 if symptoms are resolving
    - Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications
    - Symptom monitoring and masking recommended through day 10

COVID-19 Community Level

- Mississinewa Community School in guidance with the local Health Department may choose to add prevention strategies based on COVID-19 community levels as deemed necessary.

Vaccination

- Hoosiers ages 6 months and older are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Vaccination is NOT required for students or staff.
- Staying up to date on routine vaccinations is essential to prevent many different illnesses including COVID-19.

Additional Measures

- Normal pre-COVID school procedures will resume, including arrival, passing periods, lunch, and dismissal.
- Drinking fountains will be available to students.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available in cafeterias and at main entrances.
- Student seating in cafeterias will return to pre-COVID status, but principals will have plans for social distancing during lunch periods to be used if needed.
- Visitors/volunteers will be permitted during the school day.
- Parents may make appointments to complete business in school offices.

Building-Level Closures

- In the event of a school-wide or district-wide outbreak of COVID, administrators will determine if a closure is needed. Any closed school will move to same-day eLearning for the duration of the closure.

Emotional Support

- Mississinewa's existing team, consisting of school counselors, the school psychologist, the district's behavior interventionist, and others, have developed the district's plan for social and emotional support of students.

School Calendar

The district will follow the adopted 2023-24 school calendar.

- Virtual Options
    - Mississinewa Community Schools recognizes that, for nearly all students, in-person instruction by a highly-qualified teacher is the best method of ensuring student achievement and well-being. Mississinewa does have The Indian Academy that could be used as a virtual option. Applications for The Indian Academy can be picked up in the office.

Employee Leave

Employee leave will return to normal, pre-COVID status for the 2023-24 school year. There will be no additional COVID leave for the 2022-23 school year. Employees will use normal, pre-COVID leave for any COVID-related absences.

Contact Information

- MCSC Director of Nursing: 765-674-2248
    - Mrs. Jennifer Ropp, jennifer_ropp@olemiss.k12.in.us

For building-level questions, contact your school's principal:

- Westview Elementary School: 765-677-4437
    - Mrs. Kerri Wortinger, kerri_wortinger@olemiss.k12.in.us
- Northview Elementary School: 765-677-4400
    - Mrs. Amanda Varner, amanda_varner@olemiss.k12.in.us
- R.J. Baskett Middle School: 765-674-8536
    - Mr. Andy Roesch, andy_roesch@olemiss.k12.in.us
- Mississinewa High School: 765-674-2248
    - Mrs. Rachel Roesch, rachel_roesch@olemiss.k12.in.us

This plan is subject to change based on requirements and recommendations from the Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Department of Health, Grant County Department of Health, and the Governor's Executive Orders.