

# **Madison County Public Schools**

## **Mitigation Health Plan**

### **2023 -2024**

Madison County Public Schools has formed a team within the school division and a point person at each building has been assigned.

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As needed, MCPS will communicate with the local health department.

## Promoting behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses

MCPS will follow these key prevention strategies:

1. Promoting vaccination
2. Optional use of masks
3. Ventilation
4. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
5. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
6. Staying home when sick

### 1. Promoting Vaccination

According to the CDC and VDH, vaccinations are an effective prevention strategy to manage the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. MCPS partnered with Madison County's local government to offer vaccination clinics for students and staff during the summer of 2021.

- Those interested in getting vaccinated can check with their healthcare provider or find a location to get a COVID-19 vaccine or other vaccines at [vaccinate.virginia.gov/](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/)
- On occasion, MCPS will partner with the local health district to hold student vaccination clinics during after-school and weekend hours.

### 2. Use of Masks

Masks are optional on all MCPS properties.

### 3. Ventilation

According to the CDC, “improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air.” All ventilation systems in the schools meet the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards-compliant for the mixing of outdoor air. Air filters are replaced at least every three months per industry standard. All air filters have been replaced with the MERV-13 filters in all buildings.

In alignment with CDC recommendations, during transportation we will open or crack windows in buses and other forms of transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk. Keeping windows open a few inches improves air circulation.

Extra ventilation will be added to locker rooms and repairs have been made to existing units.

#### **4. Implement Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

MCPS will continue to train all staff and students on personal hygiene practices that prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses, such as hand washing and covering coughs.

MCPS will display age-appropriate signage in all facilities and provide materials that promote healthy hygiene.

Hand Sanitizing stations will be located throughout the building. Students will also have opportunities to wash their hands with soap and water throughout the day.

#### **5. Clean and Maintain Healthy Facilities**

The Supervisor of Maintenance will maintain records of supplies. The supervisor will work with various vendors to ensure adequate quantities of cleaning and disinfecting products are in stock and available for use in division facilities. Building administrators will use *School Dude* to request supplies.

Staff members are prohibited from bringing in their own disinfectant products. Disinfection should be conducted by the custodial staff as part of their cleaning and disinfecting protocol, except in special circumstances approved by the principal. If there is a need for disinfection in a classroom, a teacher will contact a trained custodian to do the disinfection. Unlike cleaning which physically removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects by using soap, disinfection requires the use of chemicals to kill germs on surfaces and objects.

- Daily custodial cleaning/disinfecting checklists will be provided to all custodial staff. Supervisor of maintenance maintains inventory of supplies.
- QuatStat, a hospital grade disinfectant, is to be used for disinfecting.
- Disinfection of frequently touched objects occurs based upon CDC recommendations.
- Teachers and other staff members will also have access to cleaning supplies as needed.

## 6. Staying Home when Sick

- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19.

**Expectations for Parents:** While our school will have precautions in place to keep students safe when they are at school and on the bus, the health of each student begins at home. Parents should:

- **Have your children wash hands before leaving for school, and remind them to wash hands several times during the school day.** Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds (roughly the time it takes to sing the happy birthday song twice) is one of the best-known ways to prevent the spread of illness. Make sure your child is in the habit of frequent handwashing after using the restroom, before eating, and when their hands are otherwise soiled. If handwashing is not available, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol is a good alternative.

### I NEED TO STAY AT HOME IF...

<b>FEVER</b>	<b>VOMITING</b>	<b>DIARRHEA</b>	<b>RASH</b>	<b>HEAD LICE</b>	<b>EYE INFECTION</b>	<b>HOSPITAL STAY AND/OR ER VISIT</b>
Temperature of 100.4 or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching, and/or “crusty” drainage from eye	Hospital stay and/or ER visit

**I AM READY TO GO BACK TO WORK OR SCHOOL WHEN I AM...**

Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication i.e. Tylenol, Motrin	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash itching, or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home and proof is provided to nurse.	Evaluated by my doctor and have note to return to school.	Released by medical provider to return to work or school.
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**Health and Absenteeism**

Student Health and Absenteeism:

MCPS will monitor student absenteeism using already established attendance procedures. Should the rate of absenteeism increase in any school or across the division, the Superintendent will be made aware of this by the building level principal or designee. Additionally, the Family Support Worker will monitor student attendance at the district level and report to the Superintendent any fluctuations in daily attendance rates.

**Communication**

As part of the effort to orient, train, and communicate with staff, students, and parents this document has been developed. This document serves as the foundation for all communication regarding health mitigation strategies for employees, students, and parents. This document will be made available through several communication platforms including the school website, social media platforms, and local media.

MCPS will follow standard operating procedures to notify families of an outbreak of any illness.

**Community Response**

MCPS will coordinate with local agencies and organizations to include the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Madison County Emergency Medical Services, Madison County Sheriff’s Office, Madison County Administrator, local civic organizations, and local churches in the community response to any outbreak/pandemic.

## Student Health Services

Ongoing training will be provided as needed to all health services staff and designated lay responders to address any health concerns or safety needs of our students and staff.

## Routine Mental Health Services

MCPS has developed a plan to implement Tier I trauma-informed practices, including morning meetings and evidence-based social-emotional learning (SEL) curricula. MCPS is using the Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) framework and various other resources to provide social-emotional support to students in each building. School counselors will be available by phone or in-person for any student, family or staff member that requires assistance. Home visits will be made as needed. Referrals to local mental health services will continue as normal, including accessing emergency services through the local Community Services Board and Family Assessment Planning Team (FAPT)-funded services.

Social Emotional Learning in Schools:

- MCPS will be using *Second Step* for grades PK-8 and *Character Strong* for grades 9-12 during the 2023-2024 school year.
- We must address the emerging psychological, social, and emotional needs of students in order to deal with learning loss and gaps extending from this crisis.
- Through our SEL curriculum, classrooms hold frequent class meetings. These meetings give students and teachers time to discuss social-emotional learning topics such as understanding and managing emotions, empathy, respect, citizenship, and mindfulness.

## Food Service

Meal selection is in compliance with USDA regulations.

## School-related Sports and Recreational Activities

If conditions warrant, athletes will follow guidance as set forth by the CDC and VDH and recommendations from the VHSL.

## VHSL Physical Requirement

MCPS requires all students to have a valid VHSL physical form in order to participate in athletic conditioning and team athletic programs. The physical form must be dated after July 1, 2023 to be valid for the 2023-2024 school year.

### Outside Organizations

The use of MCPS facilities by outside organizations will follow normal procedures and must be approved by contacting the Supervisor of Maintenance.

### Gatherings, Field Trips and School Visitors.

- If needed, mitigation measures will be developed for field-trips.

### Sick Leave

Generally, employees should follow guidance from their family doctor.

### High Risk Staff and Students

All students with health needs will have an Individualized Health Plan to address their specific needs. Virtual learning options will be made available for students for whom it has been determined necessary to meet their health needs.

Employees who have needs that may fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), should contact Dr. Cathy Jones, Assistant Superintendent, for assistance.

### Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

#### Transportation for Sick Children

Parents will be responsible for picking up sick children. Parents will provide school administration with several emergency contacts who can pick up the student if they are unavailable or who can reach the parent in the event of illness. Should a student present

respiratory distress or medical symptoms that require acute care, emergency services will be notified to transport the child to the hospital.

### **Disinfection After Illness**

When an individual becomes sick or presents with symptoms of COVID-19 or other infectious illness, custodial staff will be notified immediately. All areas that the individual has come in contact with will be disinfected using EPA-registered disinfectants applied by trained staff.

### **Communication with Local Health Department**

Karen Johnson will be the contact person at VDH Rapidan-Rappahannock Virginia Health District.

### **Closing Schools**

MCPS will collaborate with community partners, including the Rapidan-Rappahannock Virginia Health District, if decisions need to be made to limit in-person activities or transition students to virtual learning.

Areas of the school where ill individuals spent time while infectious might need to be closed temporarily for [cleaning and disinfection](#) while unaffected areas continue to function as usual. Decisions about closure of a section of the school or the entire school will depend on the number of ill persons who have been sent home for a period of isolation and the number of exposed contacts who have been identified and placed into quarantine. The extent of the school facility and teaching staff affected by these factors will be a factor in determining whether educational services can continue to be provided.