

Mohawk Valley School District No. 17



Mitigation Plan 2021-2022 School Year

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), The Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS), Yuma County Department of Public Health (YCHD), The Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc. (The Trust), Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

****Subject to change based on current Local, County, State, or Federal guidelines or regulations.
All Local, County, State and Federal guidelines will be followed.***

A return to pre-pandemic normal school operation will resume for the 2021-22 school year. Mohawk Valley School (MVS) will implement prevention strategies wherever possible and continue to monitor and follow CDC recommended protocols in the instance of a positive COVID-19 case.

LEARNING OPTIONS

Only in-person instruction will be offered for the 2021-22 school year. A distant or hybrid learning option will not be offered. Any family wishing to keep their children at home will need to withdraw from MVS and seek another institution that offers on-line instruction. An Instructional Time Model will be adopted to accommodate students who need to be home for quarantine or isolation. If a student must quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure or confirmed positive test, the student's attendance will be determined based on the perimeters of the adopted Instructional Time Model.

FACE COVERINGS

Masks are encouraged but will not be enforced (*per A.R.S. 15-342.05 signed into law this summer that states school may not require masks for school attendance.*)

MASKS ON BUSES

Masks **will be required** on buses. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued an order that requires people riding on public transportation to wear masks. The CDC interpretation of public transportation includes school buses and Arizona Department of Education has issued a statement that the CDC Order applies to school buses in Arizona. Mohawk Valley School students will be required to wear masks on school buses as long as Yuma County COVID-19 cases are in the "Moderate or High Transmission Rate." The school will have masks available if a parent is unable to provide one. (*A.R.S. 15-342.05 prohibits schools from requiring face coverings for students during school hours and on school property or to participate in in-person learning but does not reference school buses.*)

SOCIAL DISTANCING and COHORTS

Social distancing will be enforced wherever possible. With increased enrollment and staffing stretched thin with normal duties, social distancing will be challenging in most settings. Please note however, that students will remain in cohorts throughout most of their day. Cohorts on buses will not be enforced due to management challenges. Mixed grades will be on the playground for some recesses. Although several grades are playing at once, students tend to play with friends from their own classroom.

HANDWASHING and RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Properly washing hands is important to reduce the spread of germs, bacteria, and viruses. Students will be taught proper handwashing and will be encouraged to use good hygiene. Staff will monitor and reinforce appropriate handwashing behavior. Handwashing and sanitation

supplies will be made available throughout the school. Respiratory etiquette such as covering coughs and sneezes will be taught, encouraged, and monitored.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Routine cleaning is essential to keeping staff and students safe. Cleaning protocols will be put into place and followed.

- Normal cleaning routines and protocols that were in place before COVID-19 will resume.
- Every staff member will be in charge of keeping their area disinfected throughout the day.
- Bathrooms will be routinely cleaned.
- Cafeteria tables will be properly cleaned daily.
- Disinfectant will be available in every classroom and other areas around campus.

SPORTS, FIELD TRIPS, ACTIVITIES, and ASSEMBLIES

All school sports, field trips, activities, and assemblies will resume to normal protocols. Masks or social distancing will be encouraged by visitors in attendance at all school sponsored events.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL CAMPUS

A return to regular visitor protocols will be implemented. Visitors will need to check in at the school office. Visitors who are displaying COVID-19 like symptoms are asked not to visit the school. Masks are encouraged by visitors to the school.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS

Parents should monitor their children for signs of illness prior to sending them to school. Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they show signs of infectious illness. If your child or an employee shows signs of illness or fever, they you should be kept at home until 24 hours have passed without a fever. Screen for the following symptoms:

Fever greater than 100.4	Chills
Sore Throat	Cough
Shortness of Breath	Muscle or Body Aches
Fatigue	New Loss of Taste or Smell
Runny Nose Congestion	Headache
Vomiting, Diarrhea, Nausea	

Chronic Conditions

If a student has a chronic condition such as allergies or asthma, parents should inform the school of that condition. If the school has been informed, students should be permitted to ride the bus and attend school. This pertains to employees as well.

DISPLAY OF SYMPTOMS WHILE AT SCHOOL

If a student displays symptoms while at school, the nurse aide will investigate the situation following appropriate guidelines and parents will be notified if necessary to pick up their child

and monitor for symptoms before the return to school. Students may return to school after 24 hours fever free unless it is confirmed that the child has been exposed to a positive or presumed positive COVID-19 case, then a quarantine will be in order.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST OR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS REPORTED

All household members of someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 should not physically attend school. If a student, teacher, or MVS staff member or household member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive COVID-19 test, the most current AZDHS and CDC guidance and protocols will be followed in conjunction with guidance from Yuma County Health Department. Employee and student close contact exposure will be reviewed and quarantine dates will be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent upon a thorough investigation. Quarantine times are dependent upon vaccination or un-vaccinated situations. MVS will work with YCHD to determine a safe release from quarantine to return to school/work. CDC and AZDHS protocols are subject to update and change regularly.

CLASS QUARANTINES OR SCHOOL CLOSURES

MVS will follow recommendations from AZDHS based on their safely return to in-person instruction guidelines. Similar to determining when to reopen school buildings, the decision to quarantine a class, close a portion of the school, or close the school entirely will be made in close coordination with Yuma County Health Department. Both the context of local spread as well as the school's mitigation practices will be considered.

COVID DIAGNOSTIC ANTIGEN TEST AVAILABILITY

- Students and their families, and MVS employees have access to the BinaxNow COVID-19 AG Card for rapid testing.
- Students that show symptoms may be tested **only with** parent permission.

COVID-19 WAIVERS

Families will be asked to sign the COVID-19 waivers. Although many steps have been taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the school, there is no guarantee that any child is protected against contracting the virus.

VACCINATIONS AGAINST COVID-19

Vaccines against COVID-19 will be optional. No student, staff member, or visitor will be required to have a COVID-19 vaccine or show proof of vaccination. Information about vaccinations can be found at www.vaccines.gov.