

*Covid-19 Family Guidance and  
Requirements from the Health Office  
Sanderson Academy  
Loranna Almeida, BSN, RN.*

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## **Attendance**

Strong attendance remains a vital component of a successful school experience.

For students opting to continue in remote learning only, attendance will work the same as it has since the start of the school year.

For students opting to participate in the hybrid model, attendance will be taken in person by a staff member when in school, and virtually if at home.

Parents are responsible for calling the school nurse whenever their student will be absent- [lalmeida@mtrsd.org](mailto:lalmeida@mtrsd.org). Reporting the reason for absence is also important. If it is Covid-19 related, the District Nurse Leader will contact you to assist with any questions or concerns- [dweber@mtrsd.org](mailto:dweber@mtrsd.org), (413) 624-3451.

## **Masks/PPE/Hand Hygiene**

All students and staff are expected to wear a clean mask at all times. Masks should be either a homemade two-ply cloth mask, disposable pleated surgical, or non-medical earloop mask. All masks must have ear loops and fit to the face, covering the nose and mouth without gaps. No scarves, bandanas, gaiter masks, or face shields worn without a mask will be accepted. Child and adult masks are available (daily) through the nurse if needed.

The school will provide a paper bag to all students to place their mask in while taking a monitored mask break. The school will provide disinfectant spray and wipes to all classrooms.

Any student(s) refusing to wear a mask, or continually taking their mask off while in the building, will be sent home.

## **Hand Sanitizing / Hand Hygiene Protocols**

Students, staff, and any visitor entering the building are expected to sanitize their hands upon arrival into the building, before eating, after using the bathroom, when visibly dirty, and before leaving the building each day. Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the school in areas of high visibility of staff, in classrooms that do not have a sink, and at entrances to buildings.

If parents/guardians do not wish for their student to use the hand sanitizer provided by the school, please send in an opt-out letter to the nurses office to have on file. Students with this letter will be expected to wash their hands using soap and water throughout the day.

## **Hand Sanitizer**

To prevent the spread of germs, including COVID-19, CDC recommends washing hands with soap and water whenever possible because it reduces the amount of many types of germs and chemicals on hands. But if soap and water are not readily available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can help you avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

- Choose only FDA approved hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol (often listed on the label as ethanol, ethyl alcohol, isopropanol, or 2-propanol).
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers ***until your hands are dry***.
- Keep alcohol-based hand sanitizer out of your eyes.
- ***DO NOT*** rinse or wipe off the alcohol-based hand sanitizer before it's dry

# **SYMPTOM CHECKLIST**

## **DAILY HOME SCREENING TOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**Parents:** Please complete the short checklist each morning and report your child's information to your school nurse in the morning **ONLY** if your child has any check marks to report their absence and get further instructions.

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms: Please complete this form daily to identify any symptoms for or possible exposure to **COVID-19**. If you have had any symptoms in question 1, or cannot answer True to question 2 and 3 your child needs to remain at home.

**1. In the last 24 hours have you had any of the following (check all that apply):**

Fever over 100.0 degrees or chills     Cough     Congestion or runny nose

Fatigue, muscle or body aches     Sore throat     New loss of taste or smell

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing     Headache

Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

**2. I have not had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.**

Close contact means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 for about 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, asymptomatic people, 2 days prior to their test), or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g. sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

True

False

**3. I have not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a doctor or a local public health official.**

True

False

## **School Visitors and Dismissing a Student from School**

There will be no school visitors allowed to walk through the building.

Caregivers who wish to dismiss their student must inform the main office or school nurse (413 628-4404). Students being dismissed will meet their caregiver at the door or outside.

## **LUNCH**

Students that remain for lunch need to sit at least 6 feet apart and face the same direction when possible or remain in individual cubicles. The mask **MUST** be reapplied when done eating and drinking. Handwashing must be done before and after lunch.

## **MASK BREAKS**

Mask breaks will be done periodically throughout the day, as needed. They will be done outside when the weather permits, or in the classroom with a window open, students at least 6 feet apart, doing a quiet activity. Mask breaks should be no longer than 15 minutes. Snack time should be included as a mask break.

## **Water Fountains**

Students and staff must bring a reusable water bottle to be filled at the water fountain. Students and staff will not be allowed to drink from the water fountain.

## **Nurse Visits**

If a student is ill or injured, the teacher will call the nurse in the health office. The nurse will then go to the classroom and meet the student to determine if they will go to the health office. The nurse will escort the student to the health office if indicated. The student will be escorted back to the classroom when the visit is complete. If prolonged close contact is predicted by the nurse, proper PPE will be worn by the nurse.

**All emergency visits will come to the health office immediately.**

## **COVID-19 Symptom Isolation Room**

A separate isolation room for students and staff members with COVID-19 symptoms has been set up in each school building. All students and staff with any of the COVID-19 like symptoms will be treated as a positive case.

Teachers will call the nurse if a student or staff member is presenting with any of COVID-19 symptoms. Congested noses or headaches are common symptoms of multiple conditions. The nurse assessment will determine where the student or staff member will be placed, in isolation or treated in the health office.

If the student or staff member is escorted to the COVID-19 isolation room (CARE room), they will have their temperature taken, if not already done. They will be asked to stay in the room and proper mask fitting will be assessed, a new mask will be provided if needed. The student's emergency contacts will be called immediately. The expectation is for students to be picked up within 30 minutes. Please have an emergency contact available to pick up your child if you are not able to be to the school within that time frame. The school nurse will provide parents with further information at time of pick up.

The MTRSD and HRSD has been identified as one of the districts in Massachusetts that can provide Abbott BinaxNOW Covid-19 testing for any staff or student having symptoms while in school.

**With signed consent**, the BinaxNOW antigen test can be used on any student or staff that is showing signs of potential COVID-19. This test does **NOT** replace a molecular test such as a PCR. This can help to provide an early identification of a probable positive case, which helps to reduce transmission.

This test is only for students or staff that develop symptoms while at school. This is an antigen test, which is not as accurate as a PCR molecular test, but can help to identify a potential positive with early symptoms. When a positive occurs, doctors are more likely to get that person in for a molecular test that day, thereby decreasing the risk for transmission.

This test does not change the protocols for a symptomatic student or staff. That person still needs to go home and follow the information provided at the time they leave the school.

Symptomatic staff members will be asked to exit the building immediately.

While students are in the COVID-19 isolation room they will be supervised by an adult. This adult will be wearing proper PPE (i.e. mask, face shield, gown, and gloves). This is to prevent the adult from being identified as a close contact if there is a positive case. If there is more than one student in the COVID-19 health room at once, they are required to wear a mask the entire time, and remain socially distanced. When the student leaves the room, it will then be cleaned immediately and have a deep disinfection that day.

When the student or staff member is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms, they will be provided with detailed instructions on how to proceed before they can return to school. This will include being asked to get tested for COVID-19 using a PCR test.

### **Notification of a Positive COVID-19 Case IN the Building and Protocols for ‘Close Contacts’**

If there is a positive test result of a student or staff member in the building, that person will be contacted by their local Board of Health and District Nurse Leader. The Board of Health and/or District Nurse Leader will then interview the positive case to determine any close contacts. This is anyone who was within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period of the positive case up to the 2 days prior to symptom onset, or 2 days prior to the positive test results for asymptomatic people . All close contacts will then be contacted by the board of health.

Any positive case must isolate themselves for a period of 10 days from the onset of symptoms. They may not return to school until all of the following have been met.

- (1) they have been isolated for at least 10 days
- (2) they have been fever free for more than 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and
- (3) their symptoms are significantly improved.

All identified close contacts must quarantine until one of the following has been met.

- The close contact remains symptom free and gets tested on day 5 with a PCR or antigen test that is negative, they may leave quarantine on day 8. However, they must continue to monitor for symptoms through day 14, and report any to the board of health.

**OR**

- The close contact remains symptom free for 10 days, without testing, they may leave quarantine. However, they must continue to monitor for symptoms through day 14, and report any to the board of health.

**OR**

- They remain in quarantine for the full 14 days if they had any symptoms. They are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. Symptoms have significantly reduced.

**Close contacts are STRONGLY recommended to get a COVID-19 test (PCR).**

According to the revised [“Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in School, on the Bus, or in Community Settings”](#) document from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; staff and families will be notified of a positive test result within the district, WITHOUT sharing any identifying information of the person. The privacy and confidentiality of the students and staff are of high priority from the school health office, Board of Health, and school administration.

## **TRAVEL**

Per Massachusetts Covid-19 mandates, anyone traveling outside of Massachusetts within the last 10 days must quarantine for 10 days or provide evidence of a negative PCR within 72 hours of return to Massachusetts.

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts-travel-form>

## **Flu Shot Mandate**

Per the new Massachusetts mandate, ALL students are required to provide documentation of a Flu Shot by February 28, 2021 or provide a religious or medical exemption.

# **DESE COVID 19- Guidance**

[Coronavirus/COVID-19: Guidance/On the Desktop Messages](#)