

2021-2022 Health Safety Plan for Murray County Central Schools

Murray County Central Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our students and staff. To ensure we have a safe and healthy environment, we have developed the following Health Safety Plan in response to the ongoing COVID-19 health concerns. Administrators/Supervisors and employees are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 and variants in our schools and that requires full cooperation among our staff, students and administrators. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our students, employees and schools.

We are transitioning from state required safety restrictions to health recommendations. COVID still exists and we need to have plans to mitigate the effect of COVID on our students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year.

Administrators/Supervisors and workers are responsible for implementing and complying with all aspects of this Health Safety Plan.

Our students and employees are our most important assets. We are serious about safety and health and keeping our students and employees in-person and at Murray County Central Schools. Our Health Safety Plan follows best practice recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines but also takes into consideration local numbers and leaves room for changes if needed. Parents, students, and employees may always choose to be more restrictive than the school plan if they so choose.

Screening and policies for students/employees exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19

Students and staff are encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The following policies and procedures are being implemented to assess everyone's health status prior to entering the schools and for them to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms. All students and staff will be asked to assess how they are feeling each day they come to a school site by reviewing the MDH health screening checklist. If they feel ill or have symptoms identified with COVID-19, they are asked to stay home and self monitor. As soon as practical, they should seek to have a test completed to determine their status. If staying home, they will communicate with the school nurse or their direct supervisor. If at school a student or employee becomes ill, or experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they will communicate with the school nurse and immediately leave the building, keeping space from others. In their call to the nurse, they will include who they have been with in the past 48 hours and locations in the building they have been.

MCC Schools has implemented leave policies that promote students and employees staying at home when they are sick, when household members are sick, or when required by a health care provider to isolate or quarantine themselves or a member of their household. Employees will follow their contracts for applicable leave options. The district will follow federal and state laws regarding authorized leaves.

MCC Schools will follow CDC/MDH guidelines on contacting students and staff who may have been exposed and ask them to self-monitor for any symptoms. As guidelines are updated, we will notify students/employees. We will ask students/employees who may have been in contact with someone testing positive to schedule for a COVID test as soon as practical. MCC Schools will follow all Federal, State Laws and district policies regarding the privacy of students/employees health records and release of information. The school district does not have a

roster of staff or students who have been vaccinated.

Handwashing

Basic infection prevention measures have been implemented at our schools at all times. All staff and students are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially when working with shared items, prior to any mealtimes and after using the toilet. All visitors to the schools will be required to wash or sanitize their hands prior to or immediately upon entering the facility. Hand-sanitizer dispensers are at entrances and locations in the buildings so they can be used for hand hygiene in place of soap and water, as long as hands are not visibly soiled. Our custodial teams will check the status of the hand sanitizers throughout the day.

Respiratory etiquette: Cover your cough or sneeze

Staff, students, and visitors are being instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward. Respiratory etiquette will be demonstrated on posters and supported by making tissues and trash receptacles available in each classroom and by restrooms.

Social distancing

Social distancing of three (3) feet continues to be recommended. There are still staff and students who may not have been vaccinated. Please social distance to the extent possible between staff, students and visitors in the school buildings.

The following guidelines will remain in our school buildings during the 2021-2022 school year:

- Each front office will maintain the clear shields that are installed near the secretaries to minimize exposure to airborne particles.
- The number of people in a classroom will follow recommendations from MDE and MDH. This guidance is reviewed and updated. As this guidance changes, we will update our plans.
- PPE will be available (masks, gloves, shields, gowns) at each building.
- Appropriate PPE may be worn when staff are working in close proximity of students for education, toileting, transporting, responding to behaviors.
- Staff will limit the sharing of equipment and instructional supplies outside of their classrooms/offices.
- Shared spaces will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. Disinfectant and cleaning supplies will be provided to clean any shared items throughout the day (phone, copier, printers, etc). Staff will use gloves when cleaning with disinfectant. The district custodial staff will provide the necessary cleaning items and provide training on how to use them.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are recommended but not required in school buildings for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Employees/students may choose to wear a face covering if they so choose. Additional guidance on face coverings will be updated through MDH, MDE, and the CDC. Masking is required by federal order for all people on all indoor public transportation conveyances (airports, public buses, etc.), including school buses.

Face coverings will be mandated if the student population percentage becomes 3% or greater in confirmed positive COVID cases per school. This will be in effect for a two-week period and then re-evaluated. At 5% positive case rate, distance learning will be strongly considered for the population of infected classes or buildings.

Cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

Regular housekeeping practices are being implemented, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of work surfaces and areas in the school environment, including classrooms, offices, restrooms, break rooms, lunch rooms, and meeting rooms. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted in high-touch areas, such as phones, keyboards, touch screens, controls, door handles, elevator panels, railings and copy machines. Building custodians will perform the scheduled cleaning using CDC/MDH approved disinfecting/cleaning products.

Appropriate and effective cleaning and disinfectant supplies have been purchased and are available for use in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets and manufacturer specifications and are being used with required personal protective equipment for the product. Supplies for disinfecting hard surfaces will be provided by custodians upon request and then monitored by them for refilling as necessary. Surfaces should be allowed to air dry for maximum effectiveness of the disinfectant. The maximum amount of fresh air is being brought into the schools, air recirculation is being limited and ventilation systems are being properly used and maintained. Steps are also being taken to minimize air flow blowing across people. Our building ventilation systems have been reprogrammed to increase the amount of outside air brought into each space in the building. This increase is monitored by our automation system by measuring the amount of CO2 present at different monitoring stations and then modifying fan speed and damper position to meet this requirement. This increased air is then tempered (where available) to provide comfort for building occupants.

Communications and training

This Health Safety Plan was communicated via email and posted on our school website by June 21, 2021 with updates published on July 26, 2021 and August 2, 2021. Administrators/Supervisors are to monitor how effective the program has been implemented. Administrators/Supervisors and employees are to work through this health safety program together and update the training as necessary. This Health Safety Plan will be certified by **Murray County Central Schools** and will be posted throughout the workplace by June 21st, 2021. It will be updated as necessary.

Certified by:



Joe W. Meyer
Superintendent of Schools