



Morgan County Schools

2021-22 School Operations Plan

**The following information applies to all schools and school related events.*

We are excited for the start of a new school year and look forward to having your child back in our classrooms as school opens on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. The COVID pandemic has been an extremely challenging time for your child and for your family. We appreciate the great level of cooperation and support the school system has received from students, parents, and community partners throughout these challenging and often trying times.

Although progress has been made during the COVID pandemic, it is necessary to implement protocols and procedures to help reduce the spread of COVID. The protocols outlined in this plan are subject to change based on orders from state officials or health agencies.

Health and Wellness

Anyone, either staff or student, exhibiting symptoms of COVID is to remain at home until fever free for 24 hours and symptoms improve. Anyone present on Morgan County Schools property who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID will be asked to leave and immediately consult a physician.

Students: Parents are asked to conduct daily home screening of symptoms prior to students reporting to school each day. Elementary teachers will monitor students for atypical symptoms that need to be referred to the school nurse for additional screening. Secondary students should self-monitor and report any new symptoms to parents or to school staff if becoming ill/symptomatic at school. Any individual found to have a temperature above 100.4 will be further screened by the school nurse or other designee to verify the temperature. A student presenting with fever or symptoms will be quarantined in a supervised isolation area until pick-up by parent/guardian or designee approved on the student's emergency contact form.

We ask that students stay home from school and consult their physician if they show any signs of illness, including, but not limited to the following:

- Fever of 100 or higher***
- Aches or chills***
- Nausea and/or vomiting***
- Coughing or wheezing***
- Sore throat***

Universal Precautions:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.***
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.***
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.***
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or use the inside of the elbow if a tissue is not available.***
- Promptly dispose of all used tissues.***
- Educate students to do all of the above.***

Employees: Physician consultation with COVID testing is recommended for any staff member exhibiting symptoms.

General Information

- 1. COVID-19 vaccinations are offered free of charge to any county resident over the age of 12.***
- 2. COVID-19 testing is available free of charge for all residents, including students and staff.***
- 3. Morgan County Schools will maintain an enhanced cleaning and disinfecting schedule to include disinfection of high touch points and increased common area cleaning schedules.***

4. In keeping with recommendations from WVDHHR, we will maintain physical distancing in schools within building limitations.

5. Contact tracing will continue for all staff and students with potential exposure.

6. Morgan County Schools will utilize seating charts in classrooms, cafeterias and on buses to help keep track of any potential COVID-19 exposures.

7. The Berkeley-Morgan County Health Department will continue to use the quarantine protocol if a positive COVID-19 exposure is confirmed. Any students or staff exposed while wearing a proper face covering or who are fully vaccinated may not be required to quarantine.

Proper masking and vaccinations are the most effective ways to prevent class and school-wide quarantine closures.

8. Large gatherings outside of the classroom will be limited. This includes all-school assemblies and field trips.* This does not affect recess or PE, which will be held with safety protocols in place. Assemblies and field trips will be reassessed at the end of the first nine-week period.

9. Face coverings are required for all staff, students and visitors indoors and on buses. Morgan County Schools will supply PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) requested by any staff member or student.

Thank you for helping keep our staff and students safe by reviewing and enacting the measures above. As always, we appreciate your understanding that these guidelines are based on current information and may be modified based on changes at the state, national, or local level. We will continue to keep our staff and students safe and in school... together.

****This does not include athletic trips, which are governed by the WVSSAC***

Cafeterias/Food Service

- 1. Cooks will prepare meals in the kitchen. Breakfast will be served in the classroom or as a Grab n' Go option depending on the school.***
- 2. Cafeteria seating will be spaced to the extent practical.***
- 3. Students will be assigned seats for the cafeteria and must sit in those same seats everyday to assist in any contact tracing that needs to be done.***
- 4. Cafeteria tables and touch surfaces shall be sanitized after each meal service period.***
- 5. Students and staff shall wash hands/sanitize before and after meals.***

Classrooms

- 1. When feasible, arrange desks or seating so that students are separated from one another by three feet. If it is not possible to arrange seating three feet apart, it is recommended that students sit facing the same direction (i.e., all sitting on the same side of a table)***
- 2. If students must change classrooms, desks and touched surfaces will be sanitized in classrooms when classes are changed on a regular basis.***
- 3. Students and staff are required to clean hands on a regular basis.***
- 4. Shared equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.***
- 5. Core grouping is to be used where possible.***

Entering/Exiting School Buildings

- 1. All students, staff, and visitors will enter/exit the building only through designated points of entry or exit.**
- 2. When entering the building, students will proceed directly to classrooms or designated staging areas.**

Extra-curricular/Athletic Activities

- 1. Extra-curricular/Athletic activities will operate as scheduled.**

Face Coverings

On Monday, August 9, the Berkeley-Morgan County Health Department (BMCHD) released a directive which affects the use of face coverings in our schools. The levels of community transmission of COVID-19 are being monitored by the BMCHD daily and the status on Friday of each week will determine the face covering practices in place for all students, staff and visitors on Morgan County Schools property for the following week. When the transmission level is ranked in the “substantial” or “high” categories, masks will be required indoors. When the transmission level is ranked in the “low” or “moderate” categories, masks will be highly recommended indoors, but not required.

SUBSTANTIAL/HIGH

Universal face coverings for students and staff will be REQUIRED when levels of Covid-19 community transmission reach levels designated as SUBSTANTIAL or HIGH.

LOW /MODERATE

Face coverings will be *HIGHLY RECOMMENDED* for students and staff when the level of Covid-19 community transmission is *LOW* or *MODERATE* while indoors and in areas where social distancing is limited.

- ***MCS will post the weekly status on our website, our app, and on social media.***
- ***Please be aware all students and employees must wear a face covering while boarding and riding any MCS bus and/or vehicle.***
- ***The CDC currently recommends that all children ages 2 and older wear a mask when indoors in a school setting. The Morgan County Health Department recommends the use of masks for all and has issued a mask mandate for schools.***
- ***If requested, Morgan County Schools will provide face coverings for students or staff.***
- ***The status regarding the use of face-covering is subject to change.***

Quarantine Protocol:

The Morgan County Health Department will continue to conduct contact tracing of individuals who have tested positive for COVID. Those individuals who are known to have had close contact with an infected individual will be required to quarantine consistent with state guidelines.

The Morgan County Health Department will work in collaboration with Morgan County Schools to determine close contacts of individuals that test positive for COVID-19. The quarantine period for non-vaccinated individuals and those not wearing a mask is determined by the Morgan County Health Department based upon current state guidelines.

Those individuals who are known to have had close contact with an infected individual will be required to quarantine consistent with the following state guidelines: Current quarantine guidelines state that a student or staff member that is identified as a close contact of an individual that tests positive will not have to quarantine if both the positive individual and the exposed individual are wearing a mask and at least 3 feet apart. Also, individuals that are vaccinated will not have to quarantine under the current guidelines. CDC has

provided a recommendation that fully vaccinated individuals that are exposed should be tested 3-5 days from exposure. This is due to the Delta Variant and the possibility of being a carrier even without symptoms. If everyone will “mask up” or get vaccinated when eligible, we can prevent the spread AND prevent having to quarantine. Students that are quarantined will be given assignments to complete for their time out of school. This could include both written and online assignments.

**Current protocols are subject to change based upon Morgan County’s transmission levels as reported by WV DHHR, Morgan County Health Department guidelines, WV Department of Education guidelines, as well as federal or state mandates.*

Hallways

1. All hallway traffic will be socially distanced with lanes and directions designated. Students are to keep their hands to themselves and refrain from touching surfaces and lockers.

Hygiene/Sanitation

1. Students will be taught and encouraged to use proper handwashing techniques.

2. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.

3. Tissues will be available in all classrooms.

4. Students will not drink directly from water fountains. Each school will be equipped with a water bottle filling station(s).

5. Evening-shift custodians shall sanitize touch surfaces in classrooms, computer labs, door knobs/levers/bars, light switches, and common areas each night.

Recess

1. ***Recess and physical activity periods will be granted to specific classrooms on a schedule, keeping groups of students in a particular classroom together when possible. Physical activities will be designed to maximize distance and reduce contact.***

Restrooms

1. ***Restroom breaks will be given for one student or small groups of students at a time, as needed.***
2. ***Students will be reminded of proper handwashing techniques.***

Visitors/Volunteers

1. ***Symptom screening may be conducted for visitors exhibiting COVID symptoms when entering the building.***
2. ***Visitors may be restricted to the front office area, administrative office, counseling office, or conference areas.***
3. ***Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry to the office area.***

School Bus Transportation

1. ***Drivers and passengers are required to wear a face covering on the bus.***

- 2. Face coverings will be available upon request.**
- 3. Hand sanitizer will be available when boarding the bus.**
- 4. Seating charts will be utilized on each bus.**
- 5. Information regarding bus routes is posted on the Morgan County Schools website at www.morganschools.net.**
- 6. Windows will be lowered to a least one level, weather permitting, to encourage the flow of fresh air on the bus.**
- 7. Generally, no more than two (2) students will be seated in a seat. Children from the same family will be permitted to sit three (3) to a seat, depending on the seating capacity of the bus.**
- 8. Established regulations relating to the seating of preschool students on the school bus remain in effect.**
- 9. Students will disembark in an orderly fashion beginning from the front of the bus and proceeding to the rear of the bus when possible.**
- 10. Students will remain seated, with hands to themselves, from the time they board the bus until disembarking.**
- 11. Students identified with COVID symptoms while at school will not be transported home by school bus at the end of the school day.**
- 12. Bus operators shall sanitize the seats and touch surfaces after every bus run. Sanitation may be accomplished by approved disinfectant wipes, liquid, or electrostatic sprayers.**

School Assemblies/Programs

- 1. School-wide assemblies and/or programs should be limited, if possible.**

Social Emotional

Student and staff social-emotional wellbeing is a top priority as we return to school. Morgan County Schools continues to improve school-wide practices to ensure students feel safe, welcome and connected to at least one caring adult in the school regardless of the school situation. First, purposeful efforts will be made to support staff's mental and physical well-being because children (no matter the age) need calm, caring, and confident adults to help them reach their potential. Second, support will be provided on a continuum to address all students' needs through school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, and school nurses.

Referrals for support and services may come through a variety of sources including parents, teachers, universal screeners, peer referrals, etc. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's teachers and request a Student Assistance Team (SAT) meeting to discuss academic, behavioral or mental health concerns. The SAT team is a collaborative, problem solving process for which school members and parents may work through a variety of student-centered situations.

Additionally, Morgan County Schools will

- ***Provide an integrated delivery of social-emotional standards.***
- ***Provide mental health supports (on-going & in response to crises).***
- ***Continue building community relationships and partnerships that benefit our students physical, emotional, and mental health.***

[Adapted from WVDE School Recovery & Guidance. Fall 2021](#)***