COVID-19 Health and Safety

Table of Contents

- Message from Dr. Chris Pearson, Acting Superintendent - Page 1
- Marysville Priorities
  - **Priority 1:** Prioritize The Health and Safety of Students, School Personnel and Families - Pages 2 - 6
    - COVID-19 Overview
    - Safety Precautions
    - Planning for sick students and staff
  - **Priority 2:** Build School Communities, and Support Students’ Social, Emotional, and Mental Health - Page 6
  - **Priority 3:** Accelerate Academic Achievement - Page 6
- Resources for Families - Page 7
- Non-Discrimination Statement - Page 7

Message From Acting Superintendent

Dear Families,

We are excited to welcome all of our students back to school this year! Our goal is to keep students at school and minimize learning disruptions. In order to accomplish this, we are required to have specific safety provisions in place. The purpose of this handbook is to outline these provisions, as well as to communicate the district’s top priorities for helping our students recover academically and emotionally. We thank you for your ongoing partnership in ensuring that we keep our staff and students safe.

Dr. Chris Pearson
Priority 1: Prioritize the Health and Safety of Students, School Personnel and Families

Every one of our students deserves a high-quality education in a healthy and safe learning environment. Our district is committed to prioritizing health and safety for all students, staff, and families.

Overview of preventative measures:

Staying Home When Sick

- Staying home when sick is essential to keeping COVID-19 infections out of schools and preventing the spread to others.

Wearing Masks

- When indoors, masks will be required for students, staff, visitors, and volunteers (even if fully vaccinated).
- All students will be taught how to properly wear a mask.

Physical Distancing

- Students will need to maintain three feet whenever reasonable and possible.
- Adults will need to maintain six feet whenever possible.

Ventilation

- We will offer quality ventilation to help reduce airborne exposure to respiratory pathogens, chemicals, and odors. We will consult with HVAC specialists to determine the best way to maximize the ventilation and filtration in every building.
- The district uses a MERV-13 filter system in every building. Every three months these filters are changed.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting Facilities**

- Cleaning removes germs, dirt, food, body fluids, and other material.
- Sanitizing reduces germs on surfaces to safe levels.
- Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces of a clean object.
- Each night, cleaning and disinfecting ‘touched surfaces’ will take place.
- Every student will have access to alcohol sanitizing wipes.

**Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

- We will continue to teach proper handwashing techniques.
- We will encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- We will provide each classroom with a touchless hand sanitizing station.

**Testing**

Testing is available for students/families/staff who have COVID-like symptoms and are not close contacts or exposed.

- If a student has symptoms at school, the student will need to go home. If symptoms do not improve, a COVID test may be arranged.
- Parent/guardian may give written permission for testing at school.
- The test is a rapid, shallow nasal swab, self-administered by student (if age appropriate) or parent/guardian of an elementary school student.
- All testing is supervised and recorded by a trained staff observer.
- Parents/guardians of students who are self-administering will be notified prior to testing.
Per Snohomish Health District guidelines, cases of exposure or close contact will not be tested at this time. “Return to Learn” has not been adopted by the Snohomish Health District as of 9/14/21.

**Bussing**

- Masks will be required at all times for both students and drivers.
- Buses will operate at full capacity.
- All buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Windows will be open to maximize airflow.
- Students will have assigned seating.

**Responding to Cases or Suspected Cases of COVID-19 at School**

- Any student who reports COVID-19-like symptoms at school must be immediately isolated from others.
- While being isolated he/she must wear a mask. Anyone responding to the student must also wear appropriate PPE.

**Isolation/Quarantine**

Quarantine occurs when someone has: COVID-like symptoms, has been exposed to a COVID-positive person, or is COVID positive. **Any of these need to be reported to your child’s school.**

Quarantine periods are all individually determined depending on the situation.

**General Guidelines**

- COVID-like symptoms: Possible quarantine dependent on the situation. Will be determined by a COVID Tracking Team member.
- COVID positive: A COVID positive individual will quarantine for 10 days (from the positive test date or when symptoms began). The individual may return to school or work after the 10th day if symptoms improve and no fever is present without fever-reducing medication.
● Close Contact or Exposure: Quarantine will be dependent upon vaccination status. If **unvaccinated**, quarantine is 14 days from exposure (last contact). If **vaccinated**, do not need to quarantine unless the individual develops symptoms.

● Completely Vaccinated: This means a person has received two doses of the vaccine and it has been two weeks since the last dose. For single-dose vaccines, two weeks since the dose.

● If at any time during an exposed person’s quarantine period they develop symptoms, this can change the quarantine period.

● **Exception to Close Contact if living with a COVID positive person:** The exposed persons’ 14-day quarantine starts after the COVID positive person’s 10 days are complete.

● **A close contact/exposed person can not negative test out of quarantine.**

**Reporting Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health Department**

- All cases of COVID-19 and outbreaks in schools must be reported to the local health department.
- We will continue to update positive COVID cases on the school district’s website.

**COVID-19 Vaccination**

All Individuals are strongly encouraged to receive COVID-19 vaccines at the first opportunity to reduce the risks of contracting COVID-19 and spreading it to others.

**Symptoms of COVID-19**

- Fever/Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle/Body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste/smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion/Runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting & diarrhea
Priority 2: Build School Communities, and Support Students’ Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

We will create a strong foundation for students’ academic success, therefore we must prioritize their social, emotional and mental health.

- We have hired a variety of mental health professionals, social workers and interventionists.
- Implementation of Social Emotional Curriculum.
- Implementation of a “Soft Start” at the beginning of the school year.

Priority 3: Accelerate Academic Achievement

Following a tough year, we want every student engaged and excelling academically in the 2021-22 school year.

- Expand summer programs for students.
- Identify gaps in academic opportunity.
- Expand early learning opportunities.
- Create smaller class sizes in primary grades to support more personalized instruction.
- Differentiated instructional approach to meet the academic needs of all students.

Resources for Families:

COVID-19 Resources for Schools, Students, and Families
Schools and Child Care Programs - COVID-19 - CDC
K-12 Schools Requirements 2021-2022
Cloth Face Coverings and Masks - Washington State Department of ...
OSPI Recovery Plan Feedback Presentation
https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/VaccineInformation/HowToGettheVaccine
Non-Discrimination Statement

Marysville School District complies with all federal and Washington State rules and regulations and will provide equal employment opportunity and treatment for all applicants and staff in recruitment, hiring, retention, assignment, transfer, promotion, and training. Such equal employment opportunity will be provided without discrimination with respect to race, creed, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. The following employees have been designated to address questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator - Gregg Kuehn, Risk Management Supervisor, gregg_kuehn@msd25.org, 360-965-0110; Title IX Officer – Tracy Souza, Director, tracy_souza@msd25.org, 360-965-0076; Section 504 Coordinator, Trish Campbell, Executive Director of Special Education, trish_campbell@msd25.org, 360-965-0174; ADA Coordinator –Trish Campbell, Executive Director of Special Education, trish_campbell@msd25.org, 360-965-0174. You can report discrimination and discriminatory harassment to any school staff member or to the district’s Civil Rights Coordinator, listed above. You also have the right to file a complaint. Address: 4220 80th Street NE, Marysville, WA 98270. Website: www.msd25.org. Marysville School District is a drug- and tobacco-free workplace.