

# Marysville School District

# COVID-19 Health and Safety Handbook 2021 - 2022 School Year



# COVID- 19 Health and Safety

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# **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**

- When applicable, we will provide on-site diagnostic testing.
- If a student has symptoms at school, parents can give written permission for the school to administer a Covid-Test. All tests are self-administered, with trained staff acting as the testing 'observer.'
- A parent/guardian is required to be present when the self-test is administered (may be dependent on age).
- The student may return to school with a negative test result AND no symptoms for over 24 hours, with no fever-reducing medication.
- If vaccinated and an individual tests positive, then 2 negative tests are needed to cancel a false positive test.

# **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

## Q: What happens if my child develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?

A: If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the school must isolate the individual and send him/her home as soon as feasible.

# Q: What if my child is fully vaccinated and exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19?

A: If your child is fully vaccinated and is not developing any symptoms, your child does not need to isolate or quarantine.

# Q: Has the definition of "close contact" changed?

A: Close contact is defined as someone who was within <u>three feet</u> of the student with COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period during the time the student with COVID-19 was infectious.

#### Q: When should my child or staff be isolated?

A: Isolation occurs when someone has been confirmed with COVID-19 or has COVID-19 symptoms. If the individual has symptoms of COVID-19, she/he may end isolation after at least 24 hours with no symptoms, and no fever without using fever-reducing medications.

#### Q: What if my child tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms?

A: The isolation may end after at least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 test and the individual has not had any subsequent illness.

## Q: When should students or staff quarantine and for how long?

A: Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must continue to quarantine. The safest option is to quarantine for 14 days after last contact. If 14 days is not possible, then the individual may quarantine for 10 days after last contact. The individual need not obtain a negative COVID-19 test to practice a 10 day, as opposed to a 14-day 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/HowToGetheVaccine

#### **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: <a href="https://www.msd25.org">www.msd25.org</a>. Marysville School District is a drug- and tobacco-free workplace.