



September 10, 2021

Dear Learners and Families,

As we enter the 9th day of school, it is important to review critical COVID-19 responses to ensure we can continue to keep our school family safe.

This year, in collaboration with the Midland County Health Department, MECHS has onsite serial testing to give families an alternative to quarantine. As a result, we are able to quickly identify any positive cases and isolate before additional spread occurs, as well as keep healthy individuals in school.

To stay updated on confirmed, probable or close contacts, please visit our website at <https://www.merps.org/page/covid19>. At the time of this writing, MECHS has had 8 positive cases since 9.7.2021. These numbers are reported as they occur, usually within 24 hours.

In the event of a COVID-19 positive/probable case of a student or staff member, MECHS is required to follow contact tracing guidelines to identify any close contacts. With guidance from the Midland County Health Department, MERPS is able to offer individuals options to keep all students safe and stop the spread of illness. Once close contacts are identified, both the individual and their family is notified. Close contact learners have three options, depending on their vaccination status. The flowchart below walks families through these options or you can visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4K0kBRFGE00>.

Please read further to help MECHS stop the spread of illness.

Help is needed to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses!

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help us stop the spread of various illnesses. It is important that families and students continue to complete the self screening and remain at home when ill. If you are sick, please stay home. Classes are available via livestream through Zoom for learners remaining at home for COVID related issues. Simply log on to your ECHO agenda and the link is available to you, if you are well enough to complete class activities.

We must work together to stay safe and remain in school until June! MECHS encourages families to follow the health department recommendations:

1. Screen daily for symptoms of illness. STAY home when you are ill!
2. Wash hands frequently.
3. Wear a face covering while indoors (recommended, not required).
4. Practice physical distancing when possible.

In the end, we are all in this together. Please don't hesitate to contact me with additional questions, concerns and feedback. Thank you for trusting us with your children's learning needs.

Warm Regards,

Tara Mager

Tara Mager, MA, LPC, LBSW
Principal

