

MSAD #37 COVID GUIDELINES
RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN, RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

As we begin our third school year co-existing with the threat of Covid-19, we have made some amendments to our existing return to school plan. In response to Covid-19, MSAD #37 will comply with all mandates set forth by the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the State of Maine, and the MSAD #37 School Board, which are incorporated herein. These MSAD #37 Guidelines will be in effect beginning September 1, 2021 and will remain in effect until no longer needed. They will be revised and updated with the latest CDC, State of Maine, and School Board mandates as they evolve over time. Our goal is to continue to minimize the risk of possible transmission of Covid-19 between people. **Therefore, these MSAD #37 COVID GUIDELINES are mandatory.**

The year we are about to embark upon will be another difficult one at best. All employees will need to be flexible and realize that this is still not business as usual. Employees may need to perform tasks, duties, or be utilized in ways which were not present in previous school experiences before Covid. We must consider the work we do for our students as our collective responsibility. We must do all these new things while still maintaining our continued focus on positive relationships, meeting our students' social/emotional needs, and the overall well-being of the "whole child." We will successfully meet this challenge and become stronger for it.

- Ronald Ramsay, Superintendent of Schools

MSAD #37 Schools have two distinctly different plans for the education of our students that may be used this school year as Covid-19 circumstances dictate. The two plans include 1) a regular in-person plan and 2) a remote education plan. These plans will be implemented based on the safety of our students.

Regular In-Person Plan:

- All students will return to school five days a week following all the CDC, State, and School Board mandates.
- Masking is recommended but not required unless the local case rate is determined to be too high of a risk and, at that time, a temporary mask mandate may be instituted by the Superintendent through the authority of the School Board. Masks will be provided for students that do not have one available.
- Facilities will be sanitized and cleaned regularly.
- All students will be held accountable for attendance and for participating. Student work will be graded.
- Students will socially distance at least 3 feet away from all other students when they are able.
- Teachers will socially distance at least 6 feet away from all students and adults when they are able.
- Students' desks will be placed at least 3 feet away from all other student desks when space allows.
- Students will be seated at least 6 feet apart when eating lunch in the cafeteria or gyms when space allows.
- Students will remain within their class pod as much as possible.
- Students must be wearing a mask to enter the school bus. Masks are mandatory on all buses. Masks will be provided if students do not have one available.
- Students and staff will do a self-health check every morning before coming to school (see Appendix).
- Students and staff will frequently wash hands and sanitize their hands throughout the day and after touching certain objects and performing certain activities (lunch, bathroom, classroom supplies, etc.). Hand sanitizer stations will be provided throughout the school.
- New air filtration systems will be in use in all classrooms at all times. These systems filter out 99.8% of all viruses and bacteria from the air. They filter the entire classroom of air 5 times per hour.

Remote Learning Plan:

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To be implemented if we have an outbreak of cases or if it is determined that it is necessary for the health and safety of our schools.

- All students will be expected to attend and participate in school remotely.
- All students will be held accountable for attendance and for participating in remote learning.
- Student work will be graded.
- Students will receive remote packets or online instruction or some combination of both depending on the grade of the student or other possible limiting factors.

Health & Safety

Each day, before entering MSAD #37 property, staff, students, and parents must complete a self-assessment for Covid-19 symptoms. Certain responses will require staff, students, and parents to immediately contact the school principal and remain off MSAD #37 property. *See attached daily self-assessment.*

All students who wish will be provided with face covering/masks or they may wear their own.

Upon entering a MSAD #37 bus, all students must wear a face mask/ covering at all times, unless their principal has approved an exception. The following exceptions may be approved, provided that the student can maintain 3 feet of distance – about an arm’s length—from others:

- When the student cannot safely wear a mask due to a medical condition, then a face shield must be worn.

All students must wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or use sanitizer if washing is not possible) when:

- The student’s hands are visibly soiled;
- After coughing or sneezing when a face mask is not in place;
- Before and after eating, using the restroom, or touching bodily fluids;
- Before and after touching common surfaces like workstations, tabletops, touch screens, door handles, buttons or keypads, light switches, cover plates, countertops, bus seat backs, handrails, school supplies and equipment, windows, and window ledges.

All Students must practice the following proper CDC infection control measures:

- If coughing or sneezing without a mask in place, students must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, or the inside of their elbow, and immediately discard the tissue.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Avoid touching any surfaces unnecessarily.
- Refrain from hugs and handshakes.
- Notify the School Principal if they, or anyone in their household, has been confirmed to have Covid-19.

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Bussing of Students

- Students must wear a mask when entering a bus. If a student does not have a mask, one will be provided by the driver.
- Several windows should be slightly opened to improve air ventilation.

Health & Safety

Staff will:

- model frequent hand washing/hand sanitizing for students throughout the school day, including upon entering/exiting the classroom;
- ensure that they socially distance themselves 6 feet away from their students as much as possible; and,
- ensure that the students within their rooms socially distance themselves 3 feet away from other students as much as possible.

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

MSAD #37 will comply with CDC recommendations regarding students' return to school after testing positive for Covid-19. Under the current CDC guidance, a student who has tested positive for Covid-19 will NOT be able to return to school until:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms appeared, AND
- They have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, AND
- Symptoms are improving.

With an asymptomatic positive case:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of your first Covid-19 diagnostic test, AND
- Staff or student continues to have no symptoms since the positive test result.

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SELF-QUARANTINED DUE TO EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

Students who believe they have been exposed to Covid-19 should STAY HOME, CONTACT THEIR TEACHER/PRINCIPAL, follow [CDC Guidelines for quarantine and self-isolation](#), and contact their Doctor. Students who have been tested and the results were negative should communicate those results to their Teacher/Principal.

If a mask mandate is in effect, any students within 6 feet are considered close contacts but if they're determined to be 3-6 feet (with mask mandate followed correctly) students would not have to quarantine from school but they will have to quarantine from after school activities and the community. This would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

If the student is determined to be a close contact but falls under one of the following exemptions, they do not have to quarantine.

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Exemptions:

1. Fully vaccinated individuals (if 14 days have passed since their final dose of Covid vaccination) will not need to quarantine unless they themselves become symptomatic. However, vaccinated close contacts should be tested 3-5 days following exposure and wear a mask in all public settings until they receive a negative test result. They should also monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days after the close contact.
2. If the student has a previous positive Covid-19 test result (molecular or antigen) collected within 90 days of the exposure and complete their isolation per the CDC guidelines, they will not have to quarantine unless they become symptomatic. Proof of a previous positive result is required.

Unvaccinated individual quarantine guidelines:

- Students who are determined to be a close contact with a positive case of Covid-19 must quarantine for 10 days from their last contact with the positive individual and monitor themselves for symptoms for 4 more days after that. The student must remain symptom free during their quarantine. Testing is recommended but a negative test will not release them from quarantine, and they must complete the full 10 days.
- If the close contact lives with the positive case, and the positive case is unable to completely isolate away from the rest of the household, the student must quarantine for a minimum of 20 days. Return to school will be monitored closely by the School Nurse and dates may change based on the course of the infected individual's illness.

PLAN FOR “HIGH RISK” STUDENTS

SAD #37 will work with each individual Student / Family to provide realistic accommodations to students who may be in need. Communication is the key to the establishment of effective accommodations for students. Any Student who has a medical condition that is considered to be in a “high risk” category” should communicate with their Teacher and Principal and provide medical documentation. This will allow the administration to review the circumstances and to understand what accommodations may be made and if there is a need for remote schooling.

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SELF-ASSESSMENT REQUIRED DAILY BY ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS:

1. Name: _____ Date _____ Phone Number _____
2. Am I living with anyone who is quarantined or who has Covid-19?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Within the past 24 hours have I had a fever (100.4) or used any medication to reduce a fever?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Have I been around anyone exhibiting these symptoms within the last 10 days?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Do I have loss of taste or smell? Yes _____ No _____
6. Do I have shortness of breath? Yes _____ No _____
7. Do I have a cough? Yes _____ No _____
8. Do I have a sore throat? Yes _____ No _____
9. Do I feel unwell today? Yes _____ No _____
10. Do I have two or more of these symptoms: headache, muscle pain, runny nose/congestion, or
nausea/vomiting/diarrhea? Yes _____ No _____

You should stay home with any yes response to the questions above and contact your principal.