

McPherson County Schools Pandemic Plan and Procedures*Developed 11/15/2020*

McPherson County Schools, with collaboration of the School Board and members of School Administration, developed the following procedures in conjunction with West Central District Health Department using guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). McPherson County Schools is committed to reducing the spread of diseases and protecting vulnerable students, staff, and visitors. The goal of this plan is to help ensure that the students of McPherson County Schools have safe and healthy learning environments. The objective of this plan is to keep our students in the school building for their education with minimal interruption related to the pandemic.

McPherson County Schools aim to limit the spread of infectious diseases and risks associated with the contact of infectious diseases for our students, staff, parents, and immediate families. These procedures serve as a general guideline and changes may need to occur quickly as conditions and information from the CDC and local health department warrant.

Parents will be notified of changes and updates via the text message system, posted on the school website, and a letter will be sent to the parent / guardians.

NEW NORMAL

- Bussing and transportation services will continue. Students will not be allowed in the junior high/high school building until 7:30 AM and the elementary building until 7:45 AM.
- Students, staff, and individuals entering the building need to follow CDC Guidelines and the **Local Public Health Recommendations for Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools** (posted on school website). Individuals with two or more of the following symptoms (fever of 100.4 or greater, chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) OR at least one of the following (a new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste/smell) OR has at least one symptom and answers yes to: “Is there someone in your household who is currently in quarantine or currently positive for COVID-19?” will be required to go home.
- Students needing to be picked up will be required to wear a face covering and they will remain in an isolation room with a staff member until leaving the building. Parents / guardians will be notified and will be expected to arrive within 2 hours to pick up their student. **Sick students will not be allowed to utilize school transportation.**
- Handwashing and hand sanitizer is encouraged and provided.
- Students will wipe down desks and workstations prior to leaving the classrooms.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies in each classroom.
- Cleaning logs will be required/filled out upon the completion of cleaning areas.
- If a student/staff comes in direct contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, it is recommended to reach out to their family physician or local health district. If a close contact with a known Covid-19 positive individual occurs, the NALHD Covid-19 Response (below) will be used to determine appropriate action.
- Individuals exhibiting symptoms are recommended to be tested for COVID-19.

Re-Admittance to School

Symptomatic staff/student who tests positive	Symptomatic staff /student not tested:	Symptomatic staff /student who tests negative:
Exclude for: - At least 10* days since symptoms first appeared AND: - At least 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medication AND: - Symptoms have improved	Exclude for: - At least 10* days since symptoms first appeared AND: - At least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medications AND: - Symptoms have improved May return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis and presents a doctor's note. *This length of time may need to be extended for people who have severe illness or are immunocompromised. Please consult WCDHD or the health care provider for further guidance on those situations	Exclude until: - At least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication (or meets the schools requirements for readmission) AND: - Improved symptoms AND: - Quarantine completed if required, due to an exposure to a positive COVID-19 case.
Asymptomatic staff /student who tests positive:		
Exclude for: - 10* days from date of test AND: - If symptoms develop, refer to symptomatic positive instructions.	Quarantine: Individuals cannot test out of quarantine.	Isolation: A negative test result is not recommended for the return to school. Symptom strategy from CDC is recommended for return to school.

CDC. (2020). Local Public Health Recommendations for Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools.

As per the NALHD Covid-19 Response Investigations PreK-12 Settings:

- In all scenarios below, a student is considered a close contact when they have been within 6 feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes.
- If the exposure occurs during extracurricular activities that take place outdoors or in large spaces (such as gyms) where 6-foot distance can be maintained, in lieu of quarantine, close contacts may self-monitor.
- In all scenarios below, students who are self-monitoring are required to wear masks.
- PreK-12 students who are a close contact due to exposure to a household member are required to quarantine.

Everyone Masked:

When a masked child tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE	COVID+
SELF-MONITOR	CLOSE CONTACTS

Close Contacts Masked:

When an unmasked child tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE	COVID+
QUARANTINE	CLOSE CONTACTS

Some Close Contacts Masked:

When a masked child tests positive and SOME close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE	COVID+
SELF-MONITOR	CLOSE CONTACTS WEARING MASKS
QUARANTINE	CLOSE CONTACTS NOT WEARING MASKS

No One Masked:

When an unmasked child tests positive and close contacts were NOT wearing masks...

ISOLATE	COVID+
QUARANTINE	CLOSE CONTACTS

Reference

NALHD. (September 18, 2020). Covid-19 Response. Retrieved from

https://wcdhd.org/file_download/inline/d30f96ff-27ad-45c0-b0f4-b47eba9e44ed

McPherson County Schools Pandemic Plan & Procedures

Developed November 15, 2020

Influenza-like illness (ILI), also known as flu-like syndrome/symptoms, is a medical diagnosis of possible influenza or other illness causing a set of common symptoms. Symptoms commonly include fever, shivering, chills, malaise, dry cough, loss of appetite, body aches, and nausea, typically in connection with a sudden onset of illness.

The risk is calculated on a “per building” basis, focusing on the elementary as one building and the junior high/high school as another building, unless the scope directly impacts both buildings such as the case of siblings or households.

Based on McPherson County’s Weekly ILI Reporting:

Low Risk	10% of students out with illness in McPherson County per building
Moderate Risk	15% of students out with illness in McPherson County per building
High Risk	25% of students out with illness in McPherson County per building

PANDEMIC PLAN & PROCEDURES

- Designated Entrances will be used for elementary and junior high/high school students.
- Face coverings will be required for all K-12 students and all staff members moving through hallways and in the office when social distancing is not an option. (*CDC recommends face coverings for all over age 2*)
- 6 ft. Social Distancing will be required by all unless it is not optional, then masking is required. This includes any in-school activity, gymnasium, classroom, commons area, school provided transportation, or other in-building activities.
- Lunch will be socially distanced and will allow for students to be unmasked while eating.
- Temperature checks will be done at the first point of contact and prior to leaving for off-campus school events.
- Field Trips and Activities will be limited (expect postponements or cancellations).
- Students facing each other while seated in a classroom will not be permitted unless there is 6 feet of social distance maintained between students.
- An alternate schedule may be implemented along with alternate locations to accommodate social distancing.
- If a student/staff comes in direct contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, it is recommended to contact your family physician and follow directives of your local health department.
- Parents/Guardians will only be allowed into the building if presenting with no fever (temperature will be taken), no signs of illness, and no direct contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Otherwise, anything needed can be dropped off at the office and will be taken to the student.
- School related activities will follow procedures of the away school or procedures set forth by NSAA or the Sandhill’s Valley Mavericks Sports Cooperative. This includes students, coaches, managers, and spectators.
- Regarding students unable or unwilling to wear face coverings as per the “Pandemic Plan & Procedures”, online/remote learning will be the primary method of instructional delivery.
 - Students participating in online/remote learning who need additional support will be allowed in the building by appointment with their teacher(s) on a restricted basis following the directed health measure.
 - Students participating in online/remote learning will be required to make contact with their teacher within the first 5 minutes of class start time. Meeting times for classes will vary from teacher to teacher attempting to follow an established schedule.

LOW RISK**

Low Risk (10% of students out with weekly ILI reported illness in McPherson County per building)

- When McPherson County Schools experience a 10%-14% absence in the weekly ILI Report, McPherson County School will follow the daily “Pandemic Plan and Procedures” in addition to the “LOW RISK” guidelines.
- Transportation will still be offered. Drivers and students are required to maintain 6 feet of social distancing or wear face coverings.
- McPherson County Schools plan to continue to provide an education for its students as long as staff is available and able to teach in class and/or remotely.

MODERATE RISK**

Moderate Risk (15% of students out with weekly ILI reported illness in McPherson County per building)

- When McPherson County Schools experience a 15%-24% absence in the weekly ILI Report, McPherson County School will follow the daily “Pandemic Plan and Procedures” in addition to the “MODERATE RISK” guidelines.
- Movement of students and staff during the day will be limited and staggered.
- Field Trips and Extra-Curricular Activities will be postponed or canceled.
- A modified schedule may be used.
- Lunch may take place in the classrooms or in an area ensuring 6 feet of social distance.
- Sharing of equipment, including the playground, will be limited.
- McPherson County Schools plan to continue to provide an education for its students as long as staff is available and able to teach in class and/or remotely.

HIGH RISK**

High Risk (25% of students out with weekly ILI reported illness in McPherson County per building)

- When McPherson County Schools experience a 25% or higher absence in the weekly ILI Report, McPherson County School will follow the “HIGH RISK” guidelines.
- Direct orders or requirements by the Governor of the State of Nebraska or direct orders or requirements by the Nebraska Department of Education supersede McPherson County Schools directives.
- Online/Remote Learning will be the primary method of instructional delivery.
- A modified schedule may be used.
- McPherson County Schools plan to continue to provide an education for its students as long as staff is available and able to teach in class and/or remotely.
- Students needing additional support will be allowed in the building on a restricted basis by appointment with the teacher(s) following the directed health measure. Meeting times for classes will vary from teacher to teacher attempting to follow an established schedule.
- Administration will notify families of applicable DHM updates as they occur via the school website, a letter mailed to their home, and, if urgent, via text message.

**McPherson County Schools will operate in alignment with the current DHMs, as they update.

Investigations: PreK-12 Settings

- In all scenarios below, a student is considered a **close contact** when they have been within **6 feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes**.
- If the exposure occurs during extracurricular activities that take place outdoors or in large spaces (such as gyms) where 6-foot distance can be maintained, in lieu of quarantine, close contacts may self-monitor.
- In all scenarios below, **students who are self-monitoring are required to wear masks**.
- PreK-12 students who are a **close contact due to exposure to a household member are required to quarantine**.

When a masked child tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE



**COVID
POSITIVE**

SELF-MONITOR



**CLOSE
CONTACTS**

Everyone Masked

When an unmasked child tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE



**COVID
POSITIVE**

QUARANTINE



**CLOSE
CONTACTS**

Close Contacts Masked

When a masked child tests positive and SOME close contacts were wearing masks...

ISOLATE



**COVID
POSITIVE**

QUARANTINE



SELF-MONITOR



Some Close Contacts Masked

When an unmasked child tests positive and close contacts were NOT wearing masks...

ISOLATE



**COVID
POSITIVE**

QUARANTINE



**CLOSE
CONTACTS**

No One Masked



Local Public Health Recommendations for Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Ill Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools

The following symptom screening criteria for ill students and staff is based on the most current research. Because people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness – the local health department has developed the following criteria to assist schools in identifying presumptive positive COVID-19 cases.

Students with two or more of the following: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

OR

At least one of the following: new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste/smell,

OR

Has at least one symptom and answers yes to: Is there someone in your household who is currently in quarantine or currently positive for COVID-19?

1. Students and staff who screen positive should be immediately isolated in the designated area and sent home as soon as possible.
2. Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth or surgical mask while waiting, if tolerable.

Re-Admittance to School

**Symptomatic staff/student
who tests positive:**

Exclude for:

- At least 10* days since symptoms first appeared **AND:**
- At least 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medication **AND:**
- Symptoms have improved

**Asymptomatic staff/student
who tests positive:**

Exclude for:

- 10* days from date of test **AND:**
- If symptoms develop, refer to symptomatic positive instructions.

**Symptomatic staff/student
not tested:**

Exclude for:

- At least 10* days since symptoms first appeared **AND:**
- At least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND:**
- Symptoms have improved

May return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis and presents a doctors note.

*This length of time may need to be extended for people who have severe illness or are immunocompromised. Please consult WCDHD or the health care provider for further guidance on those situations

**Symptomatic staff/student
who tests negative:**

Exclude until:

- At least 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication (or meets the schools requirements for readmission) **AND:**
- Improved symptoms **AND:**
- Quarantine completed if required, due to an exposure to a positive COVID-19 case.

Quarantine: Individuals cannot test out of quarantine.

Isolation: A negative test result is not recommended for the return to school. Symptom strategy from CDC is recommended for return school.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call the West Central District Health Department at: 308.696.1201 Upon request WCDHD will issue a release of quarantine/isolation

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/>