

MVAO Community School Procedures and Protocols for COVID-19

Procedures if a student or staff member is sick with COVID symptoms at school

If a student or staff member is sent home with COVID-like symptoms and has had no exposure, the family should contact their primary care physician.

- A child or staff member can return to school once they have a negative test result or a physician's release and when symptoms have improved and they have been 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- The siblings are able to return to school if they remain asymptomatic.

Procedures if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, he or she must self-isolate per public health guidelines, which will be at a minimum of 10 days from when symptoms began. If a student or staff member tests positive and must isolate for 10 days, contact tracing by county public health may require that all people, including students who were in contact with the staff member or student, also self-isolate.

County Health officials will begin the process of contact tracing if and when a positive test in the district is confirmed. Per public health guidance, "if you or a family member is identified as possibly having been directly exposed to COVID-19, public health will get ahold of you."

What are the requirements for being released from isolation or quarantine?

If tested positive:

- o May return to school after 10 days from onset of symptoms or test taken

AND

- o 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medication

AND

- o Symptoms have improved.

If tested negative, been exposed, and ASYMPTOMATIC (no symptoms)

- o May return to school after 14 days of self-isolation from the date of last exposure

AND

- o Continue to be asymptomatic.

- **If tested negative, have been exposed, and SYMPTOMATIC:**

- o May return to school after 14 days of self-isolation from the date of last exposure

AND

- o Does not test positive within the 14 days of isolation.

*Mask Exposures per guidance received on 8/11/2020:

- Anyone within 6 feet of a COVID positive person, for more than 15 consecutive minutes, is considered a close contact and exposed **REGARDLESS** of whether or not all individuals were wearing face coverings.

Procedures if a student or staff member has been exposed

If MVAO Community School is informed that a student or staff member has been exposed to COVID-19, the district will work with Public Health to notify affected students and families. MVAO Community School **can notify** families that their child has been exposed, and it is the role of the county public health **to conduct** the contact tracing.

Some parent questions related to COVID-19 exposure:

What constitutes COVID-19 Symptoms?

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose

We were informed that our child had contact with another child who had tested positive.

Does our whole family have to quarantine?

- If the child remains asymptomatic (has no symptoms), only the child who was in close contact with the COVID positive person needs to quarantine. The child should be isolated from the rest of the family during the quarantine, to include their own bathroom, etc when possible. If the child

becomes symptomatic, call the child's primary care physician and the physician will give further guidance.

One of the children in my child's second-grade class has been diagnosed with Covid-19. Does that mean everyone in the class will have to quarantine?

- The only children needing to quarantine are the children that were within 6 feet of the COVID positive child for more than 15 consecutive minutes. Depending on the situations involved, it may or may not involve quarantining the entire class. This will be determined between school officials and public health during the investigation.

Our child is in high school and moves from class to class. One of the students in his 4th period class has been diagnosed. Does our child have to quarantine?

- Your child will need to quarantine if he/ she has been close contact with the COVID positive person; within 6 feet of the COVID positive child for more than 15 consecutive minutes. This will be determined between school officials and public health during the investigation.

Other FAQ's

What information is needed when a student calls in sick? Will the siblings have to stay home as well?

- The information needed is the symptoms they are experiencing and if they have had an exposure to someone with COVID-19. If a student calls in sick, it is still recommended to call their primary care physician. Siblings are able to come to school as long as they remain asymptomatic and until the doctor decides to test for COVID.

When would a child be sent home sick?

- A child will be sent home if they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, is experiencing COVID like symptoms, or any other illness that may warrant a student being sent home.
- When a child is sent home with COVID like symptoms, the siblings should be sent home once the doctor decides to test the sick child for COVID-19. The household should be quarantined until the results of the test are determined.

What is the message for the parents when a child is being sent home?

- It is recommended to call the child's primary care physician when sent home sick from school.
- **If exposed:** Your child has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. County Public Health will be contacting you with more guidance.

- **If symptomatic:** Your child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms of another illness.

How will it be determined who gets sent home due to exposure and who will communicate this?

- County Public Health will conduct an interview with the COVID-19 positive person and determine the close contacts. County Public Health will communicate the quarantine recommendation with the close contacts and will also work closely with school administration.

If my child is sent home sick with COVID-like symptoms, do they have to be tested?

- The decision to test someone with COVID-like symptoms will be determined by the Primary Care Physician. If your child was exposed to someone and does not get tested, they will still have to quarantine for 14 days.

Will you tell us the name of the person or family that has Covid-19?

- The person or persons with COVID-19 will not be released by law per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- It is safer to focus on keeping your own exposure to a minimum; practicing social distancing from everyone (not certain individuals), wearing a face covering, and practicing proper hand-hygiene.