

# Mayville Community Schools

## “RETURN TO SCHOOL”

### Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

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**What delivery of instruction models will MCS offer to students and parents in 2020-21 if Mayville remains in Phase 4 of the Governor’s reopening plan?**

- Face-to-face traditional instruction model for those who would like their child to attend school 5-days/week.
- Hybrid model students must attend school Monday, Wednesday, Friday for face-to-face instruction and Tuesday and Thursday will be virtual.
- MCS Virtual School instruction will be completed remotely. We will work with each student to determine the best learning plan and path for their success. Mayville teachers will be the mentor.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: FULL MARKING PERIOD WITH 50% COMPLETION OF ALL VIRTUAL CLASSES.**

**Are schools required by the Michigan Dept. of Education to provide 180 days/1,098 hours of instruction as past years?**

- Yes. At this time there has been no change to the days/minutes requirement. MCS Virtual students will be required to meet these requirements days/minutes of instruction as well.

**What about students with Special Needs and students with IEPs?**

- We will work closely with families of special needs.

**If we have to transition from in-school, face-to-face instruction to remote learning, will it be different than last spring?**

- Yes. MCS teaching staff will be creating and delivering courses and content in a more robust, organized and user-friendly format. We will provide staff professional development with follow-up help sessions to assist staff with the goal of having several weeks of lessons prepared for in-school and remote learning.
- The requirements for virtual learning participation, rigor and grading will be the same as in-school learning. At this time, MDE attendance and reporting requirements remain as rigorous as in-school.

**How will children and staff keep up with instruction if quarantined for a number of days?**

- It is the District's plan to continue to provide instruction remotely if a teacher, student, and classroom is quarantined, but feeling well enough to participate. Each individual situation will require its own set of conditions.

**Will students and staff who have a fever of 100.4 or higher be restricted from school activities?**

- Refer to the Huron/Tuscola Health Department Covid19 Return to School tool kit provided.

**What will social distancing in classrooms look like?**

- Smaller class sizes because of the size of our district and due to some families choosing Virtual or the Hybrid model.
- Non-essential classroom furniture will be moved out of classrooms.
- Grade K-5 students will be strongly encouraged and we strongly recommend face masks.
- Grade 6-12 students will be required to wear a face mask.
- All staff members will be required to wear a face mask.
- To the best of our ability, student seating will be assigned, facing one direction and spaced as far apart as room dimension and furnishings/seating allows. It is our goal to achieve the 6-foot recommendation but knowing this will not be possible in all cases.

**How will social distancing be accomplished in hallways, passing times, bathrooms, etc.**

- Students will be sent directly to their classrooms when school entrances are opened at a set time determined by the school.
- Passing time in the secondary buildings will be staggered, time shortened to avoid congestion in the hallways. Students will be limited to going to their lockers before school, lunch and after school. Students will be released in the afternoon by classroom and must exit the building immediately.
- Bathrooms will post a capacity limit to assist in social distancing.
- Elementary buildings will enter school and go directly to classrooms.
- Elementary transitioning will be limited, however, when necessary, students will be supervised by staff members.
- Elementary lockers in hallways will be used before school, lunch and after school.

**Will elementary students participate in recess?**

- Yes. The playgrounds will be divided into sections and each classroom will be restricted to a section in order to prevent commingling of classes or grade levels. Masks will be strongly encouraged to be worn outside on school property by all.

**What will PE, Athletics and Band look like this school year?**

- We expect PE and Band classes will meet outside as much as possible.
- There is a high likelihood that locker rooms will not be available.

- At this time, MHSAA plans to proceed with fall athletics. ASAP, MCS will make its decision on protocols. However, for the 20-21 school year only, students will be eligible to participate regardless of delivery of instruction choice.

#### **What is the procedure/length of quarantine if a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

- If an individual has a positive test with symptoms, return to school is allowed after at least ten days since symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved.
- If there was a positive test with no symptoms, return to school is allowed after ten days have passed since the test. Note: a healthcare provider may require a longer time period. The District will review each individual case and communicate with the student/staff member.

#### **What is the procedure if a student/staff member shows signs of being sick while at school?**

- The student/staff member will be moved to a quarantine room and sent home as soon as possible and will be encouraged to have a COVID-19 test
- They cannot return to school until a negative test or is 24-hours symptom free without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Someone in direct contact with a positive-tested individual must be quarantined for 24 hours (w/o fever-reducing medications) or is able to produce a negative test.
- Someone who interacts with a person who has been contact-traced is not excluded or required to test.

#### **How will disinfecting and sanitizing be adjusted for COVID?**

- The District has purchased machines that can sanitize with a fogging fluid and eliminate the COVID particles within seconds.
- All K-5 elementary classrooms will have a germicidal UVC quartz lamp installed.
- All K-5 desks will have sneeze shields.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the building and in classrooms. Students will receive training with best sanitizing practice.
- Cleaning desks will occur hourly at the secondary level and at every transition in the elementary level.
- Water fountains will be shut off. Students can bring their own water to school in a clear container.
- All buses will be treated so COVID cannot exist on its surfaces and will be sanitized after every bus run.

#### **How will health screens occur?**

- Employees will provide daily health screenings at home prior to leaving for school.
- All parents will be requested to perform health screenings daily on their child(ren).
- Staggered release and entrance times will be used as much as possible to reduce congregating.

**Will K-5 students be required to wear masks in the classroom?**

- The Governor's Executive Order does not require students in elementary classrooms to wear face masks unless they commingle with other classes for an extended period of time (10 minutes).
- MCS parents will be asked to encourage their elementary child(ren) to follow the model of the teacher by wearing a mask.

**Will MCS provide face coverings?**

- MCS has purchased disposable masks to be used if needed. It is expected that students/staff provide their own face coverings. (Inappropriate messaging/images not permitted).

**Can students/staff refuse to wear a face covering and/or have a medical exemption?**

- When students/staff are in school, participating in face-to-face instruction, compliance with the Governor's Executive Order regarding face coverings is required.
- A medical exemption for a student/staff will be determined through a formal process and documentation.
- Medical exemption will be reviewed by the MCS Central Office staff.

**Will teachers be able to be heard clearly by students when wearing a face covering?**

- MCS staff is aware of this possible concern and we are in the process of addressing this concern and will provide teachers with a clear mask if they desire.

**When can students and staff have a break from wearing a face covering?**

- MCS is attempting to plan for "mask free breaks." These would require a classroom to be outside with social distancing.

**How will students be served breakfast & lunch during Phase 4?**

- Elementary students will receive their breakfast in the classroom. Lunch will be in a grab & go style. Some seating allows for social distancing in large spaces such as cafeteria, media center, gyms or outdoor spaces may be available weather permitting.
- Middle & High School students will receive their breakfast in the classroom. Lunch will be in a grab & go style. Some seating allows for social distancing in large spaces such as cafeteria, media center, gyms or outdoor spaces may be available weather permitting.
- MCS will be purchasing equipment to provide breakfast more efficiently in the classroom.
- Virtually enrolled students who participate in free/reduced meals will be required to pick up these meals at a location yet to be determined on the exterior of the building.

### **Will visitors be allowed at school?**

- MCS will not allow visitors at schools. Parents who wish to come to our school offices will be required to call and set up an appointment prior to arriving.
- **Allowable Guests** to the school building (itinerant staff, substitute teachers, etc.) will be issued a disposable face covering upon signing in at the main office and will be instructed to wear the face covering at all times. Instances of non-compliance will result in the guest being escorted from the building by the building administrator.

### **Will before and after school care be available for the 2020-21 school year?**

- MCS will not have any before/after school care this year.

### **Will student clubs and other after-school activities be allowed?**

- MCS does not expect to allow after-school clubs and student activities to occur during Phase 4 in person.
- Clubs may meet virtually.

### **What will transportation look like this school year?**

- MCS is encouraging all parents to strongly consider providing their own means of transportation if they are uncomfortable with their child(ren) riding the bus. **PLEASE CALL 989.843.6115 X-35201 or EMAIL [sallie.lewicki@mayvilleschools.org](mailto:sallie.lewicki@mayvilleschools.org) to confirm your student WILL NOT need transportation by MONDAY, AUGUST 24TH.**
- All students riding buses will be required to wear a mask unless medically exempted.
- Parents will be required to wait until their K-12 student has passed their temperature scan before being transported by an MCS bus in the morning.
- All bus drivers and students will be required to wear face masks at all times on the bus unless medically exempted.
- All windows on the bus will remain open or partially open on the buses at all times weather permitting.
- All students from the same family will ride in the same bus seat. (Up to 2-3 students per seat)
- All other students will be assigned a seat with one student per seat being the goal if possible.

### **Will MCS be using signage and reminders to reinforce procedures?**

- MCS has purchased signage/markings to assist students/staff with safety protocol messaging and reminders.
- Daily safety messages will be delivered to students and staff.

### **What will occur if we are moved to Stage 3 before school starts?**

- MCS has been preparing procedures for technology hand-out and teachers using Google classroom to provide a more robust, rigorous remote-learning model should the Governor return Mayville Community Schools to Stage 3.

### **Will Open Houses and Parent/Teacher Conferences be held?**

- We expect Open Houses and Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held virtually while we remain in Stage 4 if possible. We will determine ASAP before scheduled conferences.

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### **MCS STUDENT/STAFF WELL-BEING**

#### **What is MCS doing to ensure the social emotional well-being of students this fall?**

- MCS is committed to creating supportive and responsive learning climates to ensure our students can thrive. We will be paying close attention to the social emotional needs of our students and intentionally setting up environments that foster belonging and community as well as emotional safety and support. We will have **three staff personnel** available to help students.

We know these are unprecedented, uncertain times and we are all concerned with the beginning of the new school year looming. We do not have all of the answers and we ask for your patience as we will be tweaking criteria and procedures as we move through the beginning of this school year. However, please know it is not for the lack of doing our utmost to give our families choices and information based on what we know today. Mayville Community Schools released our formal return to school plan on August 13th that we are required to submit to the Michigan Department of Education by August 15, 2020. Please stay tuned. It is our pledge to you to be as transparent as possible as we embark on the 2020-21 school year together.

— Barry Markwart, Superintendent