

# Marionville R-9 Schools Covid 19 Guidelines and Protocols

## 20-21 Reopening Guidance (Last Updated 8/19/20)

The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance. Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect the needs of local conditions.

### Social Distancing

\* The following examples assume face to face instruction. Applicable social distancing may be situational and measures will be implemented when achievable.

\*\*Please note, the protocols listed below may evolve as more information is obtained about COVID 19 from state and federal agencies.

#### School Buildings and Classrooms:

- When achievable, keep students in cohort groups to minimize wide-spread contact. (elementary)
- Stagger schedules and revise recess times to minimize the number of students on the playground. (elementary)
- Increase space between students during in person instruction.
- Utilize space outdoors during instructional time as weather permits.
- Minimize or eliminate students traveling to different buildings.
- Only the administration or staff allowed in classrooms with students.
- Limit the sharing of instructional items and clean items thoroughly.

#### Revise/revisit activities that may require large numbers of students and public to gather.

- MSHSAA suggested guidelines for athletics and activities.
- Innovative ideas for traditional events and fundraising ventures = Back to school night, 5k races for organizations, etc.

#### Transportation:

- When achievable, limit one child or a family to a seat.
- Load buses from back to front, unload front to back, one seat at a time.
- Assign seats in order of routing.
- Load students at the buildings in organized groups based on the bus they are riding.
- Use aids on buses to help with social distancing.
- Drivers wear PPE while students are on the bus.

### Breakfast and Lunch:

- To start the year, meals will be eaten in classrooms on the K-8 and High School campuses.
- Prohibit food sharing activities.
- Cafeteria space will be utilized innovatively to encourage as much social distancing as possible = Ex. organizing bus riders, holding areas if congestion in the hall occurs, etc.

### Visitors:

- Restrict or prohibit visitors to the buildings. Minimize the need for people other than necessary staff to enter the building.
- Parents are highly valued at Marionville R-9 Schools. We ask that parents please communicate with the office and essential meetings will be coordinated on a case by case basis.

### Illness:

- Students exhibiting signs of illness will be taken to the nurse if possible.
- Separate space will be established for students with signs of illness.

## **Masking**

- **Students on buses** will be required to wear masks. If a student requires considerations due to a documented medical condition please communicate with your building principal.
- Students will be encouraged to wear masks during passing times (MS/HS) in the hallways and once appropriate social distancing measures are in place in the classroom they can be removed.
- Students attending sporting events and activities will be encouraged to wear masks.
  
- Employees will be required to wear masks while in close proximity to students.
- The district will make every effort to adhere to the most up to date social distancing guidelines.
- Employees will be required to wear masks while working or attending a school function in any school building or facility.
- Masks can be removed:
  1. To eat or drink.
  2. When appropriate social distancing measures are in place.  
Ex. Within a classroom, students are spaced and the instructor is delivering a lesson but not within 6 feet of a student.

3. Due to a documented medical condition upon consultation with the Superintendent.
  4. On a case by case basis for specific instructional needs, as determined by an administrator.
- Essential visitors will be required to wear masks.

### **Temperature Checks**

- Students and staff will have temperatures checked upon arrival.

### **Cleaning Standards**

- Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout our schools.
- Proper hand washing techniques will be encouraged and reinforced. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Our maintenance staff will be utilizing proper cleaning techniques on a daily basis. A time schedule will be established to address high volume spots within each building = restrooms, weight rooms, step railings, door knobs, door handles, etc.
- Buses will be disinfected multiple times throughout the day in conjunction with their use.
- Response to exclusion from school or self quarantine:  
\*As soon as the district becomes aware of a student or employee that may have COVID 19 or has been excluded from school or asked to self quarantine, the custodial staff will be informed and cleaning will take place immediately.

### **Screening Protocols**

- Marionville Schools have the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID 19 or who are liable to transmit diseases after having been exposed to it. Please refer to 167.191, RSMo.
- The Health Department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine.
- Marionville schools will work closely with the Lawrence County Health Department when these situations arise.

#### **Exclusion from School:**

- Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID 19.
- Students and employees exhibiting two or more symptoms of COVID 19 based on Health Department guidance that is not otherwise explained may be excluded from school, see below for symptoms:
  - a) A fever of 100.4 F or greater

- b) Cough
- c) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- d) Fatigue
- e) Muscle pain or body aches
- f) Headache
- g) Sore throat
- h) New loss of taste or smell
- i) Congestion or runny nose
- j) Nausea or vomiting
- k) Diarrhea

(This list may change as the Health Department and CDC provide updates)

**Isolation:**

- If a student or staff is suspected of having COVID 19 as evidenced by fever and/or symptoms related to COVID 19 as previously listed; then, the student or staff will be isolated from the rest of the building population until released home. Once the individual has been released home, proper sanitation will take place.

**Return to School:** (per DESE / DHSS)

Once a student or staff is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and/or local health department. Currently those guidelines are:

1. **Untested.** Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID 19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three (3) conditions are met:
  - a. At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed fever free without the use of fever reducing medications.
  - b. Improvement of symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath or other COVID related symptoms have improved)
  - c. At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
2. **Tested.** Persons who experience symptoms and have been tested for COVID 19 may return to school if the following three (3) conditions are met:
  - a. At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed fever free without the use of fever reducing medications.
  - b. Improvement in symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath or other

COVID related symptoms have improved)

c. Two (2) negative tests in a row being at least 24 hours apart.

Documentation from a healthcare provider or the health department stating the results of the test and the ability to return to work or school will be required.

3. **Tested + with NO symptoms.** Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID 19 may return when they have gone ten (10) calendar days from the test date without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider. Written documentation will be required for return in such instances.

**Siblings or other students in the household:**

If a student is excluded from school due to COVID 19 symptoms, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will be questioned. If they exhibit symptoms, they will also be excluded from school. If they do not exhibit symptoms, they may be excluded from school and asked to self quarantine per the discretion of health staff and/or administration.

If a student is excluded from school due to a positive COVID 19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will be excluded from school and may return when they have gone fourteen (14) calendar days without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider. Written documentation will be required for return in such instances.

**Testing:**

Instructions for COVID 19 testing may be obtained from the local health department, a healthcare provider or a medical virtual visit.

**Self-Quarantine:**

If a student or staff has recently had close contact, currently defined as 15 minutes or more within a distance of 6 feet, with a person exhibiting COVID 19 symptoms, a positive COVID 19 diagnosis, Marionville Schools may exclude the student or staff from school and request self-quarantine for 7-14 calendar days. If said person remains Symptom free for seven (7) calendar days, then they would be eligible to return to work or school.

**Temperature Screening**

**\*Parents should assess their children for fever; students with temperatures should not attend school.**

- Students temperatures will be screened by bus aides as they board the bus in the morning.
- Students who are dropped off or who walk to school will be screened before they enter the buildings.

**Confirmed Case of Covid 19 in the School Building:**

- The district will contact the Lawrence County Health Department immediately and work together to assess the situation.
- The district will contact parents/students and employees with possible exposure.
- The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the community. Said individual may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the health department.
- On a case by case basis, a particular school building may be closed in the event of a positive COVID 19 test. Activities may be cancelled or rescheduled. Extracurricular activities and contests may be cancelled or rescheduled. We will do the best we can with the information at the time in order to keep as many people safe as possible.

## **Visitors and Guests**

- **Outside visitors will be restricted.**
- Visitors need to contact the appropriate school office before visiting campus.
- If entrance is determined essential, contact will be limited to the school office.
- Face coverings or masks are required for essential visitors.

## **Student Social / Emotional Needs**

During trying times like these, students may experience emotional trauma above and beyond their normal experiences. The Marionville R-9 School District plans to partner with parents to meet the needs of students through open communication and connection to community resources. Please inform your child's teacher or administrator if social/emotional resources are needed in your home. The following links may be helpful resources as well.

**The National Child Traumatic Stress Network - Covid 19 Resources**

<https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/disasters/pandemic-resources>

## **Student Transportation**

**Please note: Students will be within 6 feet of each other for extended periods of time on the school bus. Bus riders will be at a higher risk of contracting COVID 19. If possible, please secure other transportation to and from school for your students.**

### **Before boarding the bus:**

- If a student has a fever or has other symptoms, he or she should not attend school and should not ride the bus.
- Bus aids will take temperatures before students board the bus. Students with temperatures will not be allowed to board the bus.
- Parents should make sure their students are wearing masks before loading onto the bus in the morning.

### **While on board the bus:**

- When achievable, limit one child or family to a seat.
- Sanitizer will be provided as students board the bus.
- Bus windows will be left open when safe to do so and weather permits.

### **Unloading:**

- As students unload they will be encouraged to maintain appropriate social distancing while moving to their destination.

## **Educational Options**

1. In-person learning: Students learn safely at school.

- Traditional learning in the classroom.
- Safety procedures in place based on recommendations from state and local agencies.

2. Online learning: Students learn away from school.

- Online learning opportunities are offered through the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program.
- Parents and students can refer to our website under the Virtual Education link.

\*If school is forced to close:

- All students will be learning from home.
- Students will be responsible for course work and content.
- The district will assess each student's level of access to the internet at home.

- In the event school is closed, devices will be sent home with students in 1st through 12th grades. Pre-K and Kindergarten will utilize paper packets and materials.
- Students with adequate internet service will access online learning from their teachers through a school device.
- Students with limited internet access may utilize a hybrid approach using a flash drive with course content and school device.
- We will utilize hard copy, paper packets when applicable.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

- The risk of coronavirus transmission will still be present to some degree during participation in extracurricular activities.
- Participation in school activities is voluntary and students and families should understand the risks involved in activity participation.
- Students enrolled in full-time, online learning through the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program will be eligible to participate based on MSHSAA guidelines.
- Screening: Before every activity temperature screenings will be conducted for coaches and players. If a temperature is 100.4 or greater the individual should be moved to an indoor environment for five minutes prior to having their temperature retaken. If the temperature remains at 100.4 or greater the individual will not be allowed to participate and will be sent home.
- Face coverings: Masks or face coverings are highly encouraged for participants; required for coaches/ directors any time they are not doing strenuous physical activity.

#### **Positive Testing:**

- *What happens when a student or coach tests positive for COVID 19:*
  1. Notify the health department and school personnel.
  2. All participants who had close contact, direct contact with this individual, or a direct exposure to secretions (i.e. being coughed on)(up to 48 hours before they started showing symptoms) may be excluded from practice and play for 14 days. The health department will assist in proper contact tracing and quarantining of individuals.
  3. Close contact defined by the CDC: a person who has had close contact, less than 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes with an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID 19 infection during the 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic or was diagnosed.
  4. Exceptions may be considered if all activities were done practicing appropriate social distancing while wearing a mask and after consultation with the local health department.

5. Coaches and staff who were in contact with the infected individual while properly wearing a mask may not need to be excluded from participation.
6. Individuals who have had a significant exposure (i.e. close contact as defined above) to a confirmed positive COVID 19 individual must quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure. \*If the exposed individual develops symptoms during the 14 day quarantine period, testing should occur. If positive, then the participant/coach must follow guidance for a confirmed positive individual.

**Return to Play:**

- **Any student who has tested positive must complete a MSHSAA “Covid 19 Return to Play Form” before they resume any activities. (Please see the latest form, attached)**

**Spectators:**

- Gathering sizes and/or group restrictions are determined by local and state health departments. Gathering sizes will be limited to no more than the current local recommended gathering size, indoors or outdoors.

**Persevere....Remember Why We Are Here**

The safety and successful education of our students is our number one priority. We look forward to bridging all gaps, moving forward together, and achieving new heights during the 2020-2021 school year. Go Comets!

\*The 2020-2021 Reopening Guidance is based upon the information available to the district as of August 19, 2020. The nature of the COVID 19 Pandemic is such that adjustments could be necessary for the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. The Marionville R-9 School District reserves the right to adjust the plan based upon new information and guidance from local health professionals. We will communicate any changes to this plan as soon as possible.