

# COVID Rules and Guidelines

## Goals

- Our goal is to maintain student and staff safety within the context of an in-person learning environment.
- A secondary goal is to keep in-person classes running with minimal disruptions from illness, quarantines, and isolation periods.
- A tertiary goal is to do these things in the least restrictive environment possible.
- If we are forced into virtual learning, our goal will be to return to in-person learning as soon as it can be done safely.

## Basic Guidelines

- Our vaccination threshold for easing mitigations within a grade, level, unit, or division is 90%. Camp is exempt from this requirement.
- We will ease mitigations only when we are below 200 positive cases per week per 100,000 Montgomery County residents. This is the threshold that both the CDC and the county identify as “high transmission.”
- A student’s vaccination card must be uploaded to their Magnus account for the child to count as vaccinated in our statistics. Camp parents should upload campers’ vaccination cards to CampMinder.
- We will also consider the CDC “Community Level,” which encompasses community transmissions, COVID-19 hospitalizations, and new COVID case numbers.
- Finally, we will consider our in-house transmission level. It must be below 5% positivity.
- When any of these statistical thresholds is triggered, the Task Force will consider tightening mitigations, especially with regards to optional masking.

## Environmental Mitigation

- Surfaces are cleaned daily.
- Sharing of materials is permitted.
- Students can share bus seats on field trips as long as they are masked and the bus windows are open.
- Windows should be open to the extent that the weather allows you to maintain a reasonable indoor learning or camp environment.

## Staff, Parents, and Other Visitors

- All staff are vaccinated and boosted.
- Masked adults should wear a 3-ply surgical mask, KN94, or KN95. Of these, KN94 and KN95 masks are highly recommended. Visitors who do not have an appropriate mask will be provided one.
- On-campus activities with adults and no children are permitted under the following conditions:
  - Visiting adults who wish to come inside buildings on campus or interact with staff for longer than 15 minutes must be vaccinated and masked. Parents must show vaccination cards in order to attend in-person conferences or other indoor activities. Parents who will be indoors on campus and will interact with staff for fewer than 15 minutes must be masked and must maintain social distance.
  - Adults who stay on campus but outside the buildings do not need to show a vaccination card or stay masked. They should work to maintain social distance.

- Individual visitors who wish to accompany a field trip or otherwise occupy spaces with children have several requirements:
  - They must be vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination.
  - They must take a rapid test provided by the school before entering student-occupied spaces or riding the bus on a field trip. Those going on field trips but not riding the bus with kids do not need a rapid test.
- Parents may be invited to attend assemblies and other gatherings with adults and students under the following conditions:
  - They must be vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination.
  - They must be masked.
  - They must maintain 3 feet of social distance from students and other adults not of their household whenever possible.
- Staff must participate in weekly testing. Staff who prefer to test outside of school should also test on Tuesdays. Staff who have been COVID positive should not test until they are 90 days past their first positive test. At that point, they should resume testing.
- Masking is optional for staff while they are on campus and outdoors.
- Masking is required in indoor spaces shared with children.
- Masking is optional in private offices. Masking is optional but recommended in meetings with only staff.
- Staff who are close contacts of positive COVID cases can attend school unless they develop symptoms or test positive.
- Masking with a KN94 or KN95 mask should be strictly observed by staff who are close contacts or returning from isolation.

## Student Policies

- Students should wash their hands before and after lunch.
- Masking is optional for students while they are outdoors on campus unless social distancing is not possible.
- Masking is required for students when indoors.
- All students will test weekly unless they have had COVID within 90 days. Students who have had COVID will resume testing 90 days after their first positive test. A positive test should be confirmed with evidence provided to the school nurse. Even students who have had COVID within 90 days should take a rapid antigen test if they develop primary COVID symptoms (cough, fever, or a loss of taste and smell).
- Students are expected to participate in onsite PCR testing except in extenuating circumstances authorized by the school nurse. Students who are absent during onsite testing or who receive the nurse's authorization to test offsite must get an offsite PCR test on Tuesdays. At-home results for students who completed an offsite PCR test should be received by the school nurse by Friday at noon.
- All players for indoor interscholastic sports should be vaccinated.
- Indoor field trips can take place as long as the location has mitigations to keep groups apart. It is up to the field trip organizer to find out those mitigations and when in doubt to check with the division head and Rebecca to see if the trip can go forward.
- When over 50% of a given class is isolating or quarantining, that class will pivot to virtual learning. This does not apply for camp.
- Vaccinated students who are close contacts of positive COVID cases can attend school unless they develop symptoms or test positive.
- Unvaccinated students who are close contacts of positive COVID cases can test to stay in school each day for five days unless they develop symptoms or test positive. This rapid antigen test will be

administered by the school nurse. This test-to-stay policy only applies to students in grades K-8, and it does not apply to camp. Unvaccinated campers who are close contacts must quarantine for 5 days and cleared by the nurse before returning to camp.

- Masking with a KN 94 or KN 95 mask should be strictly observed by all students who are close contacts or who are authorized by the nurse to return from isolation.
- Cross-divisional activities have the following requirements:
  - They must be approved by a Division Head or the Head of School.
  - Where possible, they should take place outside.
  - If they are inside, all students participating should wear masks. If they are outside, they do not need masks.
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- Symptoms and School or Camp Attendance:
  - Students with a single minor symptom (runny nose, body aches, etc.) can attend school or camp.
  - Students with a combination of 2 or more minor COVID symptoms can return without a negative test once symptoms subside or can return with lessening symptoms and a negative test.
  - Students with fever, new cough, or loss of taste or smell should either:
    - Have a negative COVID test before returning and 24 hours should pass without fever and without the use of fever-reducing medications.
    - With a minor cough, the student can return with symptoms after a negative test.
    - or
    - Isolate for 5 days and return after that as long as 24 hours have passed without fever and without the use of fever-reducing medications. A student or adult who has had a positive PCR test and returns after 5 days must wear a KN94 or KN95 mask for 5 additional days while on campus except when eating or drinking.
    - Parents of students or campers with COVID symptoms should check with the school/camp nurse before the child returns to school or camp.
- Indoor eating policy:
  - 1) We will eat inside when the wind chill is below 32 degrees at 11:00 or when rain requires it at the discretion of the Heads.
  - 2) Indoor eating will include the following requirements:
    - a. Students seated 3 feet apart.
    - b. Students facing the same direction.
    - c. No talking while eating.
    - d. Staff can show a video during indoor eating to help quell the impulse to talk.

## Other Guidelines

- What happens when a staff member, student, or camper tests positive:
  - The staff member, student, or camper must isolate for 5 days.
  - If they are symptom-free and fever-free for more than 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, they can ask the nurse for authorization to return to school/camp.
  - If they return to school before the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the positive test, they should strictly mask with a KN 94 or KN 95 mask at all times unless eating or drinking through the tenth day or until symptom-free.
- Homecooked dishes for Teacher Appreciation are permitted (Thank you all very much!).