

## Health Protocols 2021-2022

### Remote Instruction During Quarantine and Isolation

Mullica Township School District is committed to in-person, five-day, full-day school for our students this year. MTSD will follow the Governor's order and the requirements from the Department of Education which stipulate that the only option for remote learning is when a student is either in isolation due to a positive COVID diagnosis, or if they have been identified as a close contact and need to quarantine if they are not vaccinated. Needing to quarantine after travel is not included. For school year 2021-22 there is no option to request remote learning due to concerns about virus spread.

However, if a student needs to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19, the district will provide remote instruction during the quarantine or isolation period. COVID quarantine/isolation days are the only remote days that can be counted for attendance purposes.

### Quarantine Periods

For individuals exposed to Covid-19 and deemed to be close contacts, the mandatory quarantine period is 14 days. The CDC and the NJDOH allow for a 10-day quarantine (or 7-day quarantine with a negative test on day 5 or later) during periods when the local area has low to moderate disease activity.

Please contact the school nurse immediately if you suspect Covid-19 exposure or symptoms.

### Before Coming to School

Please screen your child for COVID like symptoms before coming to school using the daily screening checklist <https://mullicschools.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Daily-Screening-Checklist.pdf> If your child needs to stay home due to symptoms or close contact exposure, please contact the school nurse.

### Face Masks

All students must wear a face covering. Neck gaiters cannot be substituted for masks. Extra disposable face coverings will be available for students who forget to bring a mask or if their mask gets damaged, lost, or soiled during the school day. In some cases, cloth face coverings worn by teachers may impede the education process for certain students, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing or receiving speech/language services; young students in early education programs; and English-language learners. The district will provide products (e.g., face coverings with clear panels in the front) in these cases. All students will be provided multiple mask breaks throughout the day.

### During the School Day

If a student has symptoms of illness during the school day, he or she will be sent home. Parents and guardians should pick up the child within 30 minutes of being called. If this is not possible, please provide an emergency contact who can get to school within 30 minutes. The person picking up the child should be listed as an emergency contact. Emergency contacts can be added via OnCourse.

## **Social Distancing Protocols**

Staff and students will maintain three to six feet of physical distance to the degree possible given the needs of individual students. When a student requires additional assistance, such as a physical prompt (pointing to an item on a page), the staff member will stay in close proximity to the student for the least amount of time possible.

## **FAQ's**

### **Do masks need to be worn at school?**

Yes, masks will be worn by all students and staff under the Governor's Executive Order 251 and should fully cover the nose and mouth. District-supplied masks will be available only if a student's mask is lost, wet, or unwearable. We welcome mask donations.

### **Will there be mask breaks during the school day?**

Yes.

### **Will masks be required outdoors?**

In alignment with state guidelines, if students are six feet apart outdoors, masks are not required.

### **What are the procedures for the bus?**

Students will wear a mask when boarding the bus, sit in an assigned seat, and stay distanced as much as possible. Bus windows will be open, when feasible, for fresh air and ventilation.

### **Will there be social distancing during lunch?**

Yes. We have adjusted lunch schedules to allow social distancing to the greatest extent practical during lunch periods. We will continue to explore seating arrangements during lunch periods to maximize social distancing.

### **Will the district mandate vaccinations?**

All New Jersey teachers and staff must be vaccinated before October 18 or undergo weekly testing, by executive order of the governor. We encourage eligible students to be vaccinated, but MTSD is not mandating vaccinations for students.

### **Has any information been shared with the schools on when a vaccine will be available for children under 12 years old? What about booster shots?**

Not at this time, but our medical experts will keep us updated and we will share what we learn with you.

### **What will happen if a student needs to quarantine or isolate because of COVID-19?**

Students who are quarantined because they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or identified as a close contact to someone who has been diagnosed will be provided with remote learning during their

isolation or quarantine period. Students with proof of vaccination will not need to quarantine following an exposure to COVID-19, unless they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

### **When might my child be required to quarantine?**

- When they have received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis
- When they are non-vaccinated and have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- When they exhibit COVID-like symptoms:
  - at least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
  - at least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or taste.
- Contact the school nurse immediately if you received a COVID-19 diagnosis or have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

### **What is contact tracing?**

Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine, is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. It involves identifying people who have a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 (cases) and people who they came in contact with (close contacts) and working with them to interrupt disease spread. This includes asking people with COVID-19 to isolate and their contacts to quarantine at home.

Please note that MTSD, in accordance with CDC guidelines, will not quarantine vaccinated individuals exposed to a person who has tested positive. Unvaccinated individuals will be required to quarantine if exposed to a positive case.

### **How does my child attend remote school while in quarantine?**

In alignment with the Governor's order and Department of Education requirements, COVID-related remote learning is only possible when:

- A student is in isolation due to a positive COVID diagnosis
- A student is unvaccinated and has been identified as having close contact with a COVID patient and needs to quarantine.

For those options only, the district will provide COVID-related remote instruction for students during the quarantine or isolation period. The State does not allow remote learning for preventative quarantine following travel or concerns about virus spread, so students will be counted as absent in those instances.