

MVCA COVID PROTOCOLS 2021-2022

MVCA's updated policy, following the current revised policy of Columbia County School District (Our original COVID policy was based on CCSD. We believe this to be more reasonable and appropriate than current ACPD guidelines. Other schools around us have policies that are both more and less restrictive than these, but this represents good middle ground.)

The following definitions determine direct or close contact:

- **Direct contact** is defined as being in contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed on, kissing, sharing utensils or drinks, etc.).
- **Close contact** is defined as someone who was without a mask within 3 feet of an infected person continuously for at least 15 minutes.

Individual is ill with COVID-like symptoms:

1. School staff will assess whether the individual is experiencing COVID-like symptoms (Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea)
 - If the person registers a temperature of at least 100° *plus two other symptoms*, they will be sent home. School staff has the discretion to send a student home even without fever if they have reason to suspect the student may have been exposed elsewhere.
 - Individuals will be required to wear a face covering while waiting for pick-up and/or exiting the building. We will be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues.
2. The individual is required to go home and can only return to work/school when they are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours.
3. For students, code the absence as COV-S (COVID-like Symptoms) in FACTS SIS.

Individual is exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 positive person:

1. When an individual reports contact with someone who is confirmed positive, determine if the individual has had direct or close contact with the person.
2. Individuals who are determined to be in direct or close contact with an infected person will be quarantined at home until
 - 10 days have passed since the time of last exposure, AND
 - The individual remains symptom-free during the time of quarantine, OR
 - **Early End to Quarantine:** Quarantine may end after DAY 7 with a negative test and if no symptoms were reported during the 7 days of quarantine. The test must be administered no earlier than the 5th day of quarantine. The individual may return to school/work no earlier than the 8th day.
 - For students, code the absences as COV-EX (Exposed) in FACTS SIS.
3. An individual who displays symptoms during the quarantine window should consult his/her local physician or health department for further instructions and stay home until he/she has been symptom-free for 24 hours, even if the 10-day window has passed.

Individual is confirmed to be positive for COVID-19:

1. The infected individual shall remain isolated at home until he/she has been released to return to work/school by their physician or has met the following criteria.

- Symptomatic individuals with confirmed COVID-19 can return to school after:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery** (as defined by no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND
 - At least 10 days have passed since one day prior to the positive test date.
- Asymptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 can return to school after:
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date of test administration and the person remains asymptomatic.
- For students, code the absences as COV-P (Positive) in FACTS SIS.

Individuals who are exempt from quarantine:

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months
- People who are fully vaccinated and show no symptoms (Per CDC, FDA, and manufacturers' directions, "fully vaccinated" means at least 2 weeks have passed since the second Pfizer/Moderna vaccination or single Johnson & Johnson vaccine)
- People who wear face coverings properly in the school setting

Teachers, staff, and students are required to stay home if:

- They have tested positive for OR are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
- They have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

QUARANTINING CLASSES

We do not quarantine an entire class strictly based on the class sharing a room. Rather, quarantine decisions will be made based on exposure following the definitions of contact above. An entire class *may* end up in quarantine as a result depending on the situation in that room. However, students in the same room who were determined not to be in close contact with an infected individual or who are otherwise exempt will not be quarantined.

MASK USAGE and MITIGATION STRATEGIES

For a defined period when there are multiple active cases within the school community, MVCA may require masks to be worn **on a limited basis when students or staff will be in within 3 feet of one another for an extended period** (per the definition of close contact above). This practice will be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues that make the wearing of a face covering inadvisable.

We recognize there are legitimate concerns with extended mask wearing for students both physically and in the learning environment. Reasonable efforts shall be made to maintain at least 3 feet of social distancing and, where possible, desk partitions/dividers. In addition, MVCA is also now using EPA/FDA-approved air filtrations systems in every instructional space. These devices are shown to removed 99.9% of contaminants and viruses from the air, including SARS-2-COVID. These units run continuously in every room during school activities.