Minidoka County School District

In-Person Learning Plan for Families

2022-2023

The most recent changes, dated 8/15/22, are reflected in red.
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The procedures and protocols contained in this plan are designed to facilitate the reopening of schools while reducing the potential impact of infectious diseases and the COVID-19 virus on the health and welfare of MCSD students and employees. The guidelines are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Idaho State Department of Education, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and state and local health agencies. Regular adjustments will be made to this plan based on updated information provided by these organizations as well as local factors which may arise after the resumption of school operations. Minidoka County School District will work closely with South Central Health District and local health care providers at Minidoka Memorial Hospital when making decisions regarding the health and safety of students and staff.

The goal has been to create effective, flexible, and developmentally appropriate practices that will align with recent guidance provided by the American Academy of Pediatricians: “All policy considerations for the coming school year will start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” (LINK to full AAP Guidance)

Review of this plan will occur no less than every 6 months until September 30, 2023. The process for gathering input from parents, educators, and community members includes presenting and discussing any recommended changes to the plan with the Parent/Patron Advisory Team (the PPAT consists of parents and MCSD staff representatives from all schools, as well as community members), adjusting the plan to include any recommendations from the PPAT, and discussion of all proposed changes with the Board of Trustees in an open board meeting. Final adjustments to the plan are made based on recommended changes from the Board. The revised plan is then submitted to the Board for final approval, and the approved plan is posted to the website.
MITIGATION PROTOCOLS

DAILY WELLNESS SCREENINGS
COVID-19 is a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening virus. To be able to keep our schools open while protecting the health and welfare of students and staff, it is critically important that ALL families exercise strong discretion before sending a possibly ill child to school. Staff will be asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day.

RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS
While many children with COVID-19 will present with fever initially, many will not. Other symptoms that may develop initially include the following: chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Any of these are cause for keeping a child home. During the school day, teachers will actively monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

HYGIENE
Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating. They will also have access to an alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the school building and school transportation when hand-washing opportunities are not readily available.

SOCIAL DISTANCING
While it will be difficult to maintain distance between the students at school, each site will be devising plans to provide for this precaution in the common areas of hallways, classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias, and gyms.

FACE COVERINGS
Evidence strongly supports the role and importance of face coverings in interrupting the spread of COVID-19. The latest indication is that the use of face coverings protects both the wearers and those with whom they come in contact. It is recommended staff wear a face covering (mask or face shield) when social distancing or other mitigating measures are not possible. Students are encouraged to wear a mask, especially when physical distancing is not possible.

VACCINATIONS
In addition to the mitigation strategies listed above, MCSD offered vaccination clinics to all staff wishing to be vaccinated in the spring of 2021. MCSD offered another vaccination clinic to all staff and their families in December 2021. Any staff member or members of their family received their initial or booster vaccinations free of charge at the clinic. MCSD will continue to encourage vaccinations for both students and staff as well as provide information about available vaccination sites.
PROTOCOLS & PROCEDURES

ABSENCES
Absences due to COVID will only be excused if they meet the criteria for an excused absence, as outlined in Attendance policy 320.00. Excused COVID absences require a doctor’s note, including confirmation of a positive test result. All notes verifying absences must be emailed or faxed from the doctor’s office or delivered to the school by a parent within 5 school days of returning to school.

ACADEMICS & DISTANCE LEARNING PLANNING
The District will focus on student and staff health and safety while also providing a positive learning environment. The District understands the importance of in-person learning, not just to support students moving forward academically, but also for the social and emotional benefits it provides for children. Therefore, our goal is for school to be held in person. If we need to move to a distance learning model, we want parents to be confident that our teachers and their children are equipped with the resources and knowledge to conduct and participate in remote instruction through an approved Learning Management System (LMS).

MCSD will no longer have a virtual school option for students. If students or families are uncomfortable with a regular face-to-face instruction, homeschooling options may be pursued by families.

DISTANCE LEARNING
If we are successful in mitigating the transmission of COVID-19, any disruptions to the regular instructional calendar will be minimal. However, if levels rise to the point where it is difficult to continue to preserve the health of students and staff, the District will be prepared to implement a longer-term distance learning model. Students will mirror a typical instructional day at home and be expected to progress academically. Students’ teachers will likely remain in the classroom to prepare and record lessons for students. Grades will be kept and participation tracked as part of student attendance. Students will be at home working remotely on their District provided device. To receive credit and attendance for the courses for this school year students are expected to complete the assignments.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS
We encourage families to stay updated on the most up-to-date information:
1. Visit the MCSD Website: minidokaschools.org
2. Follow our Facebook Page: @minidokaschools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>How</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Staff Case of COVID-19</td>
<td>Parents will be notified of a confirmed STAFF case, IF their child has had possible contact with the affected staff member.</td>
<td>MCSD will contact families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Student Case of COVID-19</td>
<td>Parents will be notified if their child has been in close contact with a student with COVID-19.</td>
<td>MCSD will contact families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Closure / Change in COVID-19 Level</td>
<td>Based on the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and/or staff, MCSD may need to close schools and/or conduct instruction virtually.</td>
<td>MCSD will contact families: Website Phone System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL
If a teacher suspects that a student may have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or two or more of the following: fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea), he/she will notify the office that the student is coming to the office. The student will be evaluated, wait in the health room, and will be sent home. We will consider the child’s health history and consult with a parent/guardian about other conditions that may have similar symptoms, such as allergies. **Student will need to stay home from school until they are fever-free and symptom-free for 24 hours, without the use of medications.**

EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, & RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19
As you know, this pandemic is a fluid situation. We get new information daily and have to adapt. We will update our guidelines to reflect the CDC’s most current recommendations for schools every 6 months. Please click [here](#) for the Minidoka Schools Guidance for Parents. The following resources are also available for additional information:

- South Central Public Health District’s COVID-19 hotline: 208-737-1138
- Click [here](#) to access the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC on isolation.

FACILITIES SANITARY PROTOCOLS
The safety of our employees and students is our top priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep clean of the office and school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below are to be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection. We will require employees to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting.

GENERAL DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS
Hand sanitizer stations will be available at every entrance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workspace</th>
<th>Classrooms, Offices</th>
<th>At the end of each use/day using disinfecting wipes/sprays on frequently touched surfaces.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appliances</td>
<td>Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Equipment</td>
<td>Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV’s, Telephones, keyboards</td>
<td>At the end of each use/day and/or between use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Used Objects</td>
<td>Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms</td>
<td>At least 4 times a day. Other measures, such as keeping classroom doors open, may reduce the frequency of cleaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buses</td>
<td>Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls</td>
<td>Between routes as possible using disinfecting wipes/sprays. Transportation employees will perform a full disinfecting of each bus at the end of each school day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Areas</td>
<td>Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas</td>
<td>At the end of each use/day; between groups if possible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STAFF SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, & MENTAL HEALTH
MCSD recognizes the tremendous strain that COVID-19 has placed on the social, emotional and mental well-being of staff. MCSD works closely with their current health insurance provider to ensure access to mental health counseling and other support services through the employee assistance program.
STUDENT SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, & MENTAL HEALTH
The social and emotional well-being of our students is as important as their academic learning. The District has developed plans to implement instruction and services to ensure the needs of our students are met. In addition to classroom teachers, our site counselors will be prepared and available to help our students and families.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PROTOCOLS
Individual distance learning plans are in place for all students with disabilities. Should levels rise to the point where it is difficult to continue to preserve the health of students and staff, the MCSD is prepared to implement a distance learning model. Should it be necessary to move to a distance learning model, individual distance learning plans will be implemented to ensure appropriate accommodations are provided to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS
Transportation will be following all state recommendations and mandates.
● Provide and recommend hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers
● Recommend drivers wear face masks
● Recommend that students wear masks while on the bus
● Watch for sick students and inform the school and parents if we believe we have sick children
● Buses will be disinfected every day after morning and afternoon routes
Additional stops to in-town routes and extra shuttles will be used when possible to spread out the high number of students at stops, limit exposure, and limit the high number of students on the buses. Please be aware, this may not always be possible due to time restraints and limited personnel.

WATER FOUNTAINS & RESTROOMS
Some schools have water bottle filling stations; these will remain connected and available to students and faculty. Students and staff are encouraged to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable clear water containers to school with them. Student restrooms will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day. Staff restrooms will also be disinfected periodically throughout the school day.