

Meridian Elementary School District COVID Safety Protocols 2021-22

Cleaning and Disinfection:

- Meridian's staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within school daily, The custodial staff will, as feasible, use cleaning products approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved list "N" and follow product instructions.
- Each classroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Two foggers have been purchased for disinfecting and will be used daily
- The office and staff areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Each bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- If the facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, we will clean AND disinfect ALL spaces occupied by that person during that time.

Physical Distancing:

- Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (eg. masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance.
- However, when possible, students will be physically distanced three feet apart within the classroom.

Health Hygiene Practices:

- Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom, before and after eating, and before and after recess or using the bathrooms. All classrooms and buildings have hand sanitizer available in multiple places.
- Healthy Hygiene Practices will be taught to all students. The routine of washing hands for 20 seconds, before eating and after using the bathroom, using a tissue, not touching your face, etc. will be reinforced daily at all grade levels.

Lunch:

- Students TK-2 will be socially distanced 3 feet within the cafeteria and will have 15 minutes to eat their lunch.
- Older students will eat outside if weather permits. Otherwise, lunch will be in the cafeteria for all students with 3 feet social distance and 15 minutes eating time.
- Tables and any frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned frequently. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

Face Coverings:

- All staff, students, and visitors must wear a face mask upon entering campus. If they do not have one, one will be provided.
- Masks are optional outdoor for all students and staff
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits.

Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested:

- Students and staff should self monitor for illness and stay home when sick. If a student or staff develops symptoms while at school they will immediately be sent home, or quarantined until a parent can pick them up.
- Students and staff with symptoms of Covid-19 should not return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of a fever without fever reducing medication
 - Other symptoms have improved and
 - They have a negative COVID test, or a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition, or a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnoses
 - Or at least 10 days have passed since the symptom onset.
 - Students will be offered distance learning while quarantined and will not be penalized for being absent.

Testing:

- It is recommended that Meridian Elementary School District students or staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, or current pandemic, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have not been vaccinated or wearing a mask be tested, even if the individual is asymptomatic. If they choose not to be tested they must quarantine for ten days of the onset of symptoms, or the date of last contact.
- The individual in question will be sent home immediately if not already quarantined.
- The individual will be directed to undergo testing.

Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation

- Schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.
- Mrs. McPeters is the COVID-19 Liaison to assist the health department with contact tracing and investigation.

Quarantine:

- Fully vaccinated close contacts should be referred for COVID-19 testing. If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities). In addition to correctly wearing masks in school, they should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- When both parties were wearing a mask, unvaccinated student who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24 hour period with 6 feet indoors) can continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - Are asymptomatic
 - Continue to appropriately mask, as required
 - Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine
 - Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.
- In the case of an unvaccinated close contact who was not wearing masks of for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure
 - If no symptoms, the student or staff member may discontinue quarantine after day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; or
 - Quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
 - Asymptomatic close contacts must continue daily self monitor for symptoms through day 14 and wear a mask when around others, wash hands, and avoid crowds through day 14 from last known exposure.
 - If any symptoms develop during the 14 day period , the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

Staff Training and Family Education:

- Regular staff training will continue throughout the pandemic and as direction from the CDC and CDPH continue to change.
- Our school newsletter and website will share information on how to keep students safe and healthy.

Testing of Students and Staff:

- Meridian Elementary School District students or staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should be tested, even if the individual is asymptomatic. If they choose not to be tested they must quarantine at home
- The individual in question will be sent home immediately if not already quarantined. Individuals will be directed to undergo testing.
- All staff members who do not show proof of vaccination must undergo a weekly negative COVID test to continue to work.

Visitors to the School

- Visitors to the school will be limited to necessary personnel.
- All visitors will wear a mask.
- All visitors must provide proof of vaccination or a weekly negative COVID test.
- All personnel necessary for students with disabilities will be allowed on campus in order to provide necessary services for students with IEPs, but will provide proof of vaccination or a weekly negative COVID test.

Communication Plan:

- Meridian Elementary School will maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report COVID-19 symptoms and receive immediate notifications of exposures and closures.
- Communication will maintain confidentiality as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records and other privacy laws.
- Local Health Departments will notify the school administration if a case and contact investigation reveal exposure at the school site.
- The administration and teachers will communicate clearly, consistently, and often with stakeholder groups (students, parents/guardians, staff and community) with the most up to date information available.
- The administration and teachers will communicate with families/staff/community through a variety of platforms (i.e. email, website posts, social media, newsletter, text messages, phone calls).