



# MCS D Returning with Care

## GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Excludes Learning Options)



### QUESTIONS ABOUT FACE COVERINGS

#### Are students required to wear a face covering at school? Are there exemptions?

Students are required to wear a face covering while at school. However, there are exceptions. According to the Governor's executive order a face covering is not required when a student:

1. Is outdoors, if physical distancing (six feet) can be achieved and hand hygiene protocols are practiced
2. Is eating or drinking while maintaining physical distancing
3. Has a medical, mental health, or physical condition
4. Has an Individualized Education Program or accommodation that necessitates exemption

#### Are students required to wear a face covering at school sponsored activities or during physical education class?

Students will be encouraged to wear face coverings at all school-sponsored activities but exempt if they cannot reasonably participate in the activity. Students will be required to complete a symptom assessment which includes verbal confirmation they are free of COVID-19 symptoms, have not tested positive for COVID-19, or come in close contact with someone who tested positive within the last 14 days.

#### Will students be punished for not wearing a face covering?

In the spirit of what the Governor has stated about wearing face coverings, and with the exception of the above exemptions, we will always ask and expect that students comply. If face coverings come off unintentionally or malfunction, school personnel will help students correct that as appropriate. If there is a willful defiance of the face covering order, this will be considered a disciplinary issue that will be handled similar to a dress code violation. If a student does not have a face covering, one will be provided by the school.

#### What is the definition of a face covering?

A cloth mask that covers the nose and mouth without visual openings; or a face shield that also covers the nose and mouth. Bandanas and scarves are not considered a face covering.

#### Are students okay to wear the same face covering back to back days?

Students must bring a freshly-laundered or cleaned face covering each day.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT PHYSICAL DISTANCING

#### How will physical distancing be handled?

Students and staff will maintain three to six feet of social distancing in indoor and outdoor settings as much as possible. To support social distancing efforts, schools will stagger break times and passing periods. Schools will clearly mark off spaces for specific areas, such as bathroom lines or school pick-up/drop-off locations to help students comply.

#### Will students be able to physically distance in classrooms?

We have to expect that they will not, thus our protocols of face coverings, sanitation, minimal touch points, etc. However, we do expect some families will opt for online learning either through the total online learning option or through the hybrid option. This will most certainly help create some physical distancing as opposed to having everyone in class. Additionally, we will be removing all unnecessary furniture from classrooms to help spread desks out a little further.



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### QUESTIONS ABOUT SANITATION

#### How will handwashing be handled?

Students will participate in observed handwashing/sanitizing at regular intervals. Schools will have supplies of hand sanitizer and soap to allow for frequent hand-washing, and classrooms and school facilities will be disinfected regularly.

#### Will gloves be worn?

Students, teachers, and staff will not be asked to wear gloves. Custodial, kitchen, and other specialty staff like Health Care Providers will be asked to wear gloves based on health guidelines.

#### Will schools be providing sufficient sanitizer, cleaning, and face coverings?

Schools will have supplies of hand sanitizer and soap to allow for frequent hand-washing, and classrooms and school facilities will be disinfected regularly. Students will participate in observed handwashing/sanitizing at regular intervals.

#### What personal protective equipment will be provided for students and staff?

MCSD has secured one face covering for all students should they arrive at school without one. However, we ask that families equip their students with personal face coverings each day. Teachers will be provided with face coverings, face shields, and gloves. All classrooms and other rooms in school buildings will be supplied with hand sanitizer and other sanitization products to keep surfaces and touch points clean.

#### Will students be able to share classroom or lab materials and equipment?

Classrooms might look and feel a bit different, but teachers will work to instill a learning atmosphere that is pleasant and productive. However, we will minimize the use of shared materials. And those materials that are used will be targeted for disinfection. The use of gloves will help with this, along with keyboard skins and other coverings that are conducive to safe shared use and disinfection without damage. Group work can still happen with face coverings and physical distancing. Schools and teachers will use lots of visual cues and reminders of face coverings and distancing to students.

#### How will bathrooms be kept safe?

Face coverings will be required of anyone using a restroom. Staff will be instructed to allow students more flexibility in using building restrooms to help avoid congestion between classes. Markers will be placed on floors to encourage physical distancing while waiting. Hand hygiene signage will be placed prominently in restrooms. Our custodial team will develop a cleaning schedule that is comprehensive (faucet knobs, flush handles, partition locks, ADA railings).

#### How will classrooms and buildings be sanitized and ventilated each day?

Classroom doors and windows will be opened 15 minutes prior to the start of classes each day and they will remain open during class for two reasons. First, this minimizes human encounters with high-use touch points. And, secondly, health experts advise good airflow dilutes virus particles.



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### QUESTIONS ABOUT TRANSPORTATION

#### Will children be protected on buses?

The face covering order is also in effect when boarding District school buses. Students will have assigned seating. Families are also welcome to transport their students to school on their own.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOOL ENTRY

#### Will there be symptom/temperature screenings?

No. We will ask families to perform symptom and temperature screenings at home. And we further ask for discretion and, out of an abundance of caution, to keep children home who are manifesting symptoms.

#### Are visitors, including family of students, allowed in school buildings?

Visits are discouraged so we can maintain contact tracing guidelines and the overall safety of students. Buildings will be locked however a doorbell mechanism will be installed to alert the office of visitors. There must be a valid reason for visiting and, if permitted in, a face covering and temperature check is required. Please ensure students are bringing their own lunch or eating school lunch each day.

#### How will early pickup of students be handled?

It is important that we limit the number of visitors each day. There should be no early pickup or drop off of students. Lessons will be accessible online. If a student has to leave for an appointment anytime during the day, they should stay home - lessons will be accessible online. One exception will be if a student presents symptoms of illness.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT SCENARIOS

#### How are protocols for scenarios of positive test outcomes or symptoms developed?

The Salt Lake County Health Department is devising protocols and decision trees for all schools who have a student or employee that exhibits symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test outcome.

#### What if an employee exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?

Employees will either go or stay home if they are symptomatic. They must also submit to testing and will be not allowed to return until they are free of symptoms or have fully recovered. The Director of Personnel will work with the County Health Department to coordinate contact tracing if there is a positive test outcome.

#### How will students or employees that test positive be handled?

Students/Employees who test positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from physical contact at the school for 14 days. Siblings/Children of students/employees testing positive will also be excluded for 14 days.

#### Will parents learn the name of a student or employee that tests positive for COVID-19?

No. Privacy laws prevent us from disclosing the names of any student or employee that tests positive.

#### What if the Health Department identifies a positive case of a student or employee?

The Health Department will issue an isolation order for all individuals testing positive. The Salt Lake County Health Department will conduct contact tracing and issue quarantine notices to anyone at high risk for being a contact (closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes). Schools will notify others not at high risk about potential exposure at school and encourage self-monitoring and when to get tested. Additional precautions will be deployed for those considered at lower risk and schools will increase hygiene protocol vigilance.



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### **What will trigger a closure of schools at MCS D?**

MCS D, along with all districts in the state, have authority to close schools autonomously. However, as COVID-19 is a county and statewide health issue, we will seek the guidance of our county and state health departments, Governor's office, and State Board of Education to ensure that any decision we make to close due to COVID-19 is in general agreement with our partners. School closures are very complex and best made in a spirit of collaboration.

### **SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Will there be sports, field trips, and other school activities?**

The Utah High School Activities Association oversees high school sports. They will be responsible for decisions regarding the scheduling of activities. They will also work with MCS D and other districts on appropriate safety protocols and we will comply with their directives which are also under the direction of our local and state health departments.

As of right now, all school field trips, overnight trips, and other extra-curricular activities will be postponed or cancelled. As conditions change, MCS D may revise this and will announce updates as we have them.

#### **What kinds of safety precautions will be given to protect students, coaches, and spectators participating in activities?**

We are waiting to receive protocols related to high school sports from UHSAA with regards to safeguards protecting students, coaches, and spectators. As those are announced we will share them.

### **OTHER QUESTIONS**

#### **How will fire drills or emergency evacuations be handled?**

MCS D will be working closely with local emergency response professionals to develop a strategy for helping students prepare.

#### **Will there be proper healthcare providers and quarantine areas in all schools?**

MCS D has designated quarantine zones should a student present symptoms consistent with an illness. The District has a team of nurses who will either be on-site or dispatched as needed to address the care of students presenting an illness. Parents will be notified and next steps determined based on circumstances and health department directives for decision-tree scenarios.

#### **How will school lunch work?**

Students will be given shorter and staggered lunch periods. This, along with assigned seating, floor markers for distancing, and sanitation practices will be reinforced. Lunches will be served in containers in the cafeteria, whereas breakfast will be served in classrooms. Physical distancing will be especially important and enforced as face coverings will not likely be used very much during these breaks. Where possible, students will be allowed and even encouraged to eat outdoors or in other common areas where distancing can be more easily accomplished. Students will also be allowed to bring their own lunch from home, however parents are strongly discouraged from dropping off lunches each day to minimize the number of visitors.



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### How will recesses and breaks work?

Students will be given recess breaks of no more than 15 minutes in length that encourage physical distancing. At least one break will allow for the use of playground equipment that will be sanitized each day. Students will not be permitted to bring their own equipment from home. |

### How will students store materials during the school day?

Students will be expected to store all their learning materials in their backpacks. Lockers will not be assigned unless there are extenuating circumstances.

### Why was the first day of 7th Grade cancelled?

This was requested by our Jr High administrators to give them additional time to prepare their teachers for the additional responsibilities they will have this year.

### What is the bell schedule going to be?

All schools will be on an early dismissal schedule for the first two weeks of the new school year (August 17 – 28, 2020). Lunch will be served and bus routes will run.

- Elementary Grades 1 – 6: 8:35 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Junior High School: 7:55 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.
- High School: 7:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This schedule will allow everyone in the building time to adjust to new routines and procedures. It will also allow teachers additional time for professional learning and to prepare for blended learning.

***The following adjustment to school end times has been proposed to the school board as part of our 'Murray Returns with Care' plan but HAS NOT yet been approved. This change in school end times would be from August 31, 2020 – June 3, 2021.***

As part of the MCSD reopening plan, the board is considering a change to the end of the school day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday to allow teachers to have an additional 30 minutes to upload their instruction for the day to the Learning Management System and have office hours as needed to connect with students who are using the blended resources. This additional time is contract time to be used for educational services. No meetings, practices, activities, or other events are to be scheduled during contract time. The proposed end times are as follows:



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### Elementary Grades 1 – 6

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8:35 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

### Elementary All Day Kindergarten

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8:35 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

### Elementary Kindergarten AM

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:35 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- Wednesday: 8:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

### Elementary Kindergarten PM

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Wednesday: 11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

### Junior High School

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:55 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.
- Wednesday: 7:55 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.

### High School

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:50 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: 7:50 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.