

FAQs for Families

Updated May 6, 2021

Attendance	Cleaning	Lunch	Masks	Materials	Meals
Pick Up/Drop Off	Positive Cases	Concurrent Remote	Social Distancing	Social Emotional Supports	Visitors

As a district we monitor our positive cases and close contacts on a regular basis. The ability to access and analyze data at a county, zip code and school level enables us to make informed decisions. You can see our active case and quarantine data by clicking here: mpsomaha.org/covid-19 We update the data every day, Monday through Friday, in an effort to keep the community informed.

[Click here](#) to see CDC guidance on how to safely wear a mask.

Attendance

In the event my child has to home quarantine what sort of resources will be available for my child so they can continue learning while at home? Will they be given the opportunity to participate in remote learning during this time?

- We recognize we are responding to a pandemic and want to accommodate our families the best that we can during quarantine situations. A student who is required to quarantine is strongly encouraged to access remote learning so that he/she may keep up with their assigned work.

I'm curious about the attendance policy, given that a child may miss school more frequently if they have cold symptoms (not COVID). For example, I usually send my child to school with a cold, as long as they don't have a fever. Will I need to keep them home in this case in the coming year? If so, would they need to participate in remote learning during that time period?

- We are asking parents to screen students and keep them home if they are symptomatic. We know this will increase absences. Absences will be recorded as they have always been. If the student is home ill, they will be marked accordingly.
- We recognize that students desire to keep up on their work and they will be able to access remote learning or they can make up their work when they return to school. If keeping your child home as a precaution results in excessive absences, we will work with the family.
- A student who is required to quarantine is strongly encouraged to enroll in concurrent remote learning so that he/she may keep up with their assigned work. Students who are enrolled in [Concurrent Remote Learning](#) will have their attendance taken by their classroom teacher and must be participating in the remote experience during the same hours as if they were taking the class in person. Students who are just sick for a few days and want to participate in remote learning, can do that. However, those students will be marked absent since they are not "enrolled" in remote learning.

Positive Cases

What happens if there is a positive case in my child's classroom/school?

- When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed in a school, that individual will be excluded and allowed to return based upon current guidance from CDC at the time.
- We will work with the Health Department regarding our communication in the case of a possible exposure.

Concurrent Remote Learning

Will my child be able to participate in activities / athletics at school if they choose to participate in concurrent remote learning?

- No, students who are participating in concurrent remote learning will not be allowed to come to school and participate in activities / athletics.

If a club/activity is fully remote, may remote learners participate?

- They may.

What if we try concurrent remote learning and decide during the semester that we want to send our child to school in person (or vice versa)?

- Students will not have to wait for the semester to end to change their decision about concurrent remote learning.

Will synchronous lessons be recorded?

- In concurrent remote learning, synchronous lessons will not be recorded. This is meant to be real-time learning, not on demand learning. Students must login at the assigned time and attendance will be taken.

Who will be teaching the concurrent remote classes? Will the same instructors that teach the subjects in school be teaching concurrent remote learners?

- Concurrent remote learners will have the same teachers who are teaching face-to-face students in the building.

Do remote learners join in-school classes online or are there separate instructional sessions for concurrent remote learners?

- Concurrent remote learners are expected to Zoom in to each class during their assigned class period each day for direct instruction. Once direct instruction is done, they will be expected to work the remainder of the class period and complete their assignments remotely.

Masks

Here is the CDC guidance regarding masks: [CDC Mask Guidance](#)

Are masks required at school?

- Yes, masks are required and MPS will follow the Omaha Mask Ordinance passed on August 11, 2020.

Will there be mask breaks for students?

- Yes.

What if students refuse to wear a mask?

- We believe students will meet our expectation to wear a mask. For willful disobedience, discipline will occur. A teacher will first work with a student individually.

Am I able to choose the mask that my child wears?

- Yes. Please follow the link above and see guidance from CDC. Masks with exhalation valves may be worn, but must have filters. MPS will offer each student two cloth masks should they need them. Families may provide their own masks as well. Masks will follow MPS dress code policy. Masks must cover both the nose and mouth. Masks must comply with health and safety codes and not interfere with the educational process. Bandanas will not be allowed. Questions about appropriate apparel can be directed to the school principal.

Why can't my child wear a face shield instead of a face mask?

- According to the CDC, it is not known as to whether face shields provide any benefit as a substitute for cloth face coverings. For now, we have to exclude them, but perhaps in the future they will be permissible if the medical research indicates that they are an effective alternative.
- Students however are allowed to wear a face shield in addition to a mask.

Visitors

Can we visit the schools in person?

- During fourth quarter we are opening our schools back up to visitors. Please contact your child's school to learn more about this process.

Social Distancing

How will social distancing occur in classrooms? How will the classroom be configured? Will children be able to interact at all?

- Room configurations will at times change to maximize safety. It will be based upon the activity that is being conducted.
- Students will still be able to work in groups and will not be discouraged from speaking, reading and playing with others.
- Yes, one of the benefits of being back to school in person is social interaction.

Materials

Will students share materials?

- Sharing of personal items and supplies will be limited.
- Students' personal items will be kept separate.
- Use of classroom materials will be limited and disinfected between uses.

Lunch

What will lunch time or recess look like in my child's school?

- Social-distancing will be applied to the best of our abilities utilizing traditional and non-traditional eating spaces and staggered eating schedules.
- All food will be served by gloved and masked employees.
- Students will be allowed to bring lunches from home.
- No sharing of food.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for use.
- Principals have communicated with families their building specific lunch plans.

Pick Up/Drop Off

How will pick up / drop off look like at my child's school?

- Social distancing practices should be followed.
- Students will not congregate at entrance or exit areas. Principals will send families building specific pick up / drop off plans.
- Students will be asked to put on their masks when they enter the building.
- Parents are asked to stay in or by their vehicle during pick-up/drop off.
- Students will be dismissed at multiple exits in a staggered approach. (e.g. based on walking home, riding the bus, etc.).
- Specific building information regarding pick up and drop off will be communicated by the principal.

Cleaning

What extra cleaning will be done in the schools when students return?

- High-touch surface sanitization will occur throughout each day.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available throughout the school.
- Desks/tables will be cleaned in between student use.
- All content areas and shared materials will be wiped down between uses. (e.g. class sets of books, elementary music instruments, art supplies, science goggles, etc.).

Social Emotional Supports

What social emotional supports are being offered to our Millard students?

Students supports such as school social workers, school psychologists and counselors will continue for all students, including those onsite and those in remote learning. Other supports in place include but are not limited to:

- SAFE2HELP hotline is still active (531-299-7233 or www.Safe2HelpNE.org)
- The MPS Crisis Team will be available if needed both onsite and remotely.
- Our partnership with Project Harmony Connections and CCRC remains with access to mental health services.
- School counselors will continue to build relationships with students with known needs.
- The district is also helping adults and students cultivate skills to effectively interact and create a positive school climate while simultaneously helping students build the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to carry out school-wide expectations and excel academically.
- Building-level teams are in place to support specific student needs.
- Buildings have common behavioral expectations.
- Buildings have strategies for positive relationship development.

Meals

Will meals be provided to students who choose concurrent remote learning?

- Yes - Click here to review current information: [USDA FREE MEALS INFORMATION AND FAQ'S](#)

The information in the district protocol is not overly specific. Where can we find more detailed information about our child's school?

- We have 35 schools and each of them has its own uniqueness. The District's protocols are meant to serve as a framework that will be built upon at each school building. Please reach out to your child's principal for specific information about his/her school.