



Return-to-School Plan School Year 2021-22

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS

JANUARY 2022

[UPDATED & inclusive of the most recent CDC guidelines for schools]

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS

The District is committed to Tier 1 social-emotional support through use of Sanford Harmony in every classroom. Tier 2 support is available through site counselors.

USE OF FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

Cloth Face Masks/Coverings: Governing Board Policy JICA-RB allows students wear cloth face coverings on buses and on campuses.

COVID-19 CASE PROTOCOLS

Policy GBGCB authorizes the Superintendent to take “reasonable and lawful measures to protect students and staff members from the transmission of communicable diseases.” The following protocols devolve from that Policy and from updated information from the Mohave County Department of Health (MCDPH).

Suspected COVID-19 Infection of a Student:

- Students who are known to have been exposed to COVID-19 outside of school, who develop symptoms at home, or who have tested positive for COVID-19 while not at school are expected to notify their school and not come to school.
- Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest possible degree.
- Based on information collected from the parent, the site Health Attendant and Principal will determine if families and employees need to be notified of possible exposure and if locations need to be deep-sanitized.
- Students who develop symptoms while at school will report immediately to the Health Office on site. The Health Attendant (or designee) will isolate the student to help protect employees and other students. **In accordance with long-standing health protocols for contagious diseases, students who have a fever will be sent home regardless of other symptoms. For students who present with three (3) or more COVID-19 symptoms, the following will apply:**
 - The student will be separated from all other students and staff as much as possible. The staff member will wear a cloth face covering and gloves and will maintain a distance of at least **3** feet from the student unless there is an emergency.
 - The student’s parent or emergency contact will be notified to pick up the student; if the student is in medical distress, 911 will be called.
 - The Health Attendant (or designee) will record the date, time, symptoms presented, and how the student left school (data record).
 - The Health Attendant will attempt to communicate with the parent to discuss possible exposure. If the parent is not reachable or declines to discuss the matter, all investigation stops and the site operates under the presumption that there is possible COVID-19 exposure.



Return-to-School Plan School Year 2021-22

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS

JANUARY 2022

- **The Health Attendant will ask the parent/guardian for permission to test for COVID-19 and will offer the family the opportunity to schedule a time to be tested at the school site.**
- Assessment Protocol: So that informed decisions can be made regarding notification of others with whom the student has come into contact at school or on the bus as well as the procedures for the student returning to school:
- The Health Attendant (or designee) will assess possible exposure: Who may the student have had contact with at the school site in the two days prior to symptom onset
“Close contact” is defined by the CDC as “within 3 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset.”
- In consultation with the Principal, the Health Attendant will make determinations about:
 - Who should receive notice of potential COVID-19 exposure
 - Which school rooms/areas or which district sites might be affected and determine any that need to be “enhanced sanitized” or temporarily closed*
- All information collected regarding the student in this situation will be maintained in a separate medical file and not in the student’s permanent records file.
- Accommodations for will be made for students who are isolated or quarantined to make up school work.
- In consultation with the Mohave County Department of Public Health, the District will make individual determination about whether or not to recommend that exposed employees or other students will be required to quarantine.

Notification and Reporting:

- Notification: A student’s possible exposure to COVID-19 will be treated as a student record subject to FERPA. However, the Arizona Attorney General has ruled that *in this “health emergency”, FERPA/HIPAA exceptions allow disclosure of sufficient information related to positive COVID-19 cases so that potentially affected students, staff, and visitors can self-monitor or self-quarantine.*
- Notification Basics:
 - Only “appropriate parties” will be notified (the press is not an “appropriate party”).
 - Public notices cannot contain personally identifying information.
 - Notices can only include information to allow those with potential exposure to self-monitor or self-quarantine.
 - Notices will include information about the affected District site(s) (e.g., classrooms, buses).
 - Notices will include what the District is doing in regards to enhanced disinfection of the affected areas.
 - Notices will encourage those who might have been exposed to COVID-19 to self-monitor for symptoms and self-quarantine if appropriate.



Return-to-School Plan School Year 2021-22

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS

JANUARY 2022

- Reporting: School districts are expected to report possible or positive cases of COVID-19 to health authorities. The Health Attendant will report positive cases to the Mohave County Department of Public Health.

Return-to-school Protocol for Isolated Students: Symptomatic students who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school sites when:

- At least **5** days have passed since the first symptoms **AND**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
- Continue to wear a mask for 5 days

Return-to-school Protocol for Students with COVID-19-like Symptoms: Students with COVID-19-like symptoms may not return to school until one of the following has occurred:

- The student should test for COVID-19 immediately. If that test is negative **AND** the student has not had a fever for over 24 hours without medication **AND** the other symptoms have ended, **OR**
- WITHOUT COVID-19 testing, the student must stay out of school for at least **5** days **AND** may return to school if all symptoms have improved, **AND** continue to wear a mask for 5 days **OR**
- A doctor's note can be provided that verifies that the student's symptoms are due to a laboratory confirmed illness (i.e., strep throat, ear infection), in which case, the student may return with a doctor's release or are known to be related to a chronic illness (i.e., asthma).

Return-to-school Protocol for Quarantined Students (i.e., someone in the student's household has tested positive):

Students who have been quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19 shall:

- Quarantine for 5 days from their last exposure **AND**
- Get tested on day 5 **AND**,
- If the test is negative, may return to work **AND**
- Wear a mask for 5 days **OR**
- Return when cleared by Mohave County Department of Health.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should follow isolation guidance listed above.

Students who choose to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 may use the following criteria to determine when to return to school:

- Have remained asymptomatic since the most recent COVID-19 exposure **AND**
- They continue daily symptom monitoring for **5** days after the most recent COVID-19 exposure **AND**
- They continue strict adherence to all non-pharmaceutical interventions (i.e., correct and consistent mask use, physical distancing, handwashing) *for 5 additional days.*



Return-to-School Plan School Year 2021-22

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS

JANUARY 2022

Not Required to Quarantine if person in the household has tested positive for COVID-19:

- Students who are fully vaccinated within the past 6 months of 2nd dose of 2-dose vaccine **OR** within the past 2 months of a 1-dose vaccine **OR** have received a booster dose **AND** remain asymptomatic following exposure to COVID-19.
- Previously infected students (vaccinated or not vaccinated) if:
 - Exposure to COVID-19 was within 3 months of initial positive COVID-19 test **AND**
 - End of original isolation has passed **AND**
 - Student is symptomatic

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and the Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) and applicable federal, state, and local agencies. Specific protocols included herein have been recommended by the Arizona Risk Retention Trust.